

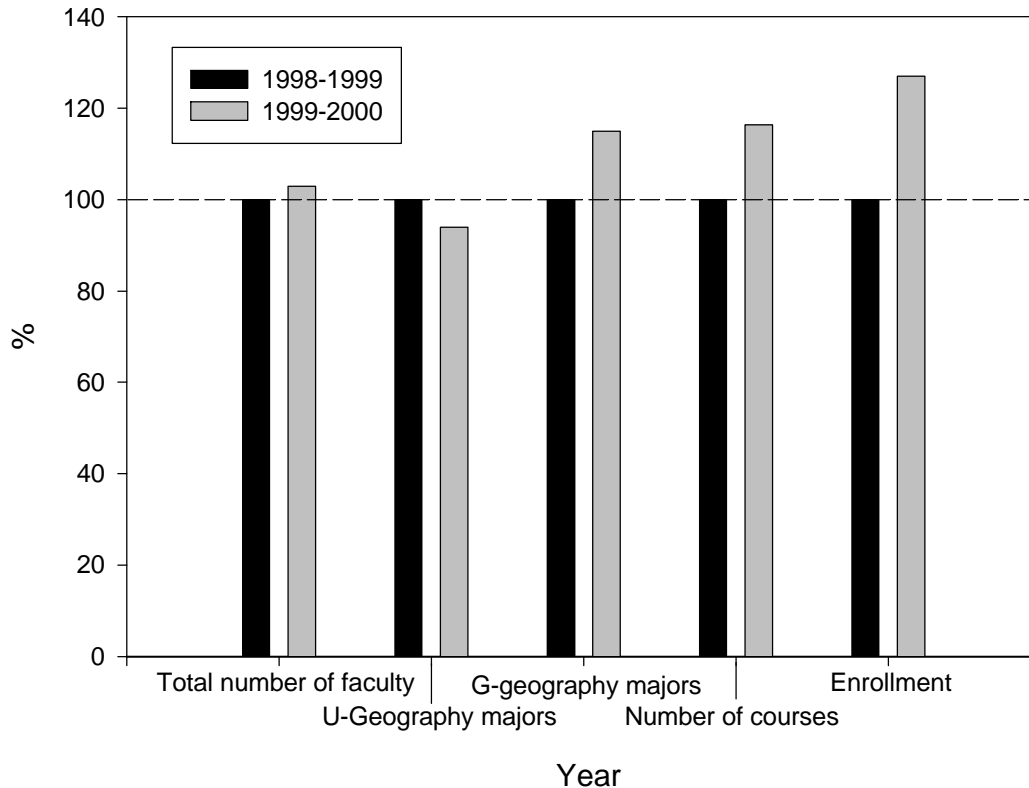
Alabama SEDAAG Report: 1999-2000

GEOGRAPHY IN ALABAMA

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The status of geography in Alabama is highlighted with increase in the number of faculty, graduate geography majors, geography courses/sections, and enrollment in geography courses, and decrease in undergraduate geography majors. This conclusion was drawn after comparing the data from 1998-1999 and the new survey, which took place in September 2000. Overall, geography in Alabama is healthy.

**Comparison of Major Indicators for the State of Alabama  
between 1998-99\* and 1999-2000**



\*1998-99 data are from Lary Dilsaver's 1999 Alabama SEDAAG Report

## Major Indicators for Each Geography Programs: 1999-2000

|       | Full-time faculty | Part-time faculty | U-grad. classes | Grad. classes | U-grad. enrolled | Grad. enrolled | U-grad. majors | Grad. majors |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| UA    | 9                 | 2                 | 67              | 37            | 2274             | 182            | 77             | 23           |
| AU    | 4                 | 1                 | 48              |               | 2018             |                | 36             |              |
| JSU   | 5                 |                   | 52              |               | 1165             |                | 36             |              |
| SAM   | 3                 |                   | 8               |               | 218              |                | 8*             |              |
| UNA   | 5                 |                   | 37              |               | 541              |                | 50             |              |
| USA   | 8                 |                   | 42              |               | 1620             |                | 50             |              |
| Total | 34                | 3                 | 254             | 37            | 7836             | 182            | 257            | 23           |

\*Geography Department at Samford University shares 22 students majoring in Environmental Science/GIS with Biology

### Departmental Highlights:

#### University of Alabama (<http://www.as.ua.edu/geography/>):

Faculty honors include: Hobson Bryan, President of International Impact Assessment Association; David Weaver, President of Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education of Alabama.

New hire: Qihao Weng, Ph.D. University of Georgia (1999). No new hires in 2000-2001.

Job markets for geography graduates are steady in GIS, environmental science and regional planning.

#### Auburn University (<http://www.auburn.edu/geography/>):

Philip Chaney served as Faculty Sponsor for Matthew D. Aubuchon's winning entry (1<sup>st</sup> place) in the 2000 Student Project Competition co-sponsored by the British Cartographic Society and the National Geographic Society.

New hires: Philip L. Chaney, Ph.D. Louisiana State University (1999) and Selima Sultana, Ph.D. Georgia (2000).

Geography graduates accepted entry-level GIS positions with consulting firms or governmental agencies.

#### Jacksonville State University (<http://www.jsu.edu/depart/geography/geoghome.html>):

Kelly Gregg was elected as Faculty Senate president and won Outstanding Teaching Award. Tom Baucom was awarded Fulbright Fellowship for FA'00 term-teaching at University of Aleppo, Syria.

New hires: Miriam Hill, Ph.D. Kent State, Visiting Assistant Instructor.

Jobs for geography graduates are in planning, environmental engineering, geo-archaeology, natural resource management.

**Samford University** (<http://www.samford.edu/schools/artsci/geography/index.html>):

Both Victor Wu and Eric Fournier have been active in PBL (problem based learning) pedagogy and have just participated in an international PBL conference hosted by Samford University. It was attended by over 700 people worldwide and was focused on pedagogy. PBL is gaining significance nationally, and Fournier and Wu are among, if not the only, geographers at either national or global level involved in this learning initiative.

**University of North Alabama** (<http://www2.una.edu/geography/>):

The number of majors is increasing. Most students are receiving jobs relating to geography upon graduation. Department members are very involved in geographic education and other training activities.

Most of geography jobs relate to the use of GIS in various public and private organization including planning, GIS analysts, civil engineering firms, ESRI.

**University of South Alabama** (<http://www.southalabama.edu/geography/>):

A campus-wide recycling program was started. Introductory physical geography is the departmental "bread and butter."

New hire: Mr. Scott Kearney, ARC/VIEW

Jobs for geography graduates are in remote sensing, environmental analysis, GIS, planning, and military.