



Geography is the science of space and place on Earth's surface. It's about:

- Understanding the importance of **location** • Interpreting **how people live** in particular places
- Identifying **relationships** among **people, places, and environments**
- Deciphering the complexities of **environments** • Explaining the **human use** of places

## Career Opportunities

Geographers' careers include but are not limited to planning, environmental consulting, sustainability, policy analysis, demographics, cartography, remote sensing, and geovisualization. They work for government agencies, non-profit and educational institutions, and industry.



*"Geography is about learning how the planet works. It's not just learning about lie forms and weather systems, or rocks and dinosaurs. Human geography, specifically, is about environmental stewardship and learning how we interact with the environment. It's focused on recognizing our dependence on the planet's resources, finding more efficient and effective uses for those resources, and obtaining a better understanding of our effect on Earth's systems."*  
—Jen Spinelli

## The Academic Program

Geographers describe, analyze, and explain the arrangement of the human and physical features and processes on Earth's surface and visualize data using geospatial technologies. Our programs offer an integrated course of study in which students learn fundamental concepts in physical and human geography while developing technical proficiency.

### The Bachelor of Arts

The bachelor of arts (B.A.) major stresses the social and behavioral aspects of geography. The geography B.A. major is especially appropriate for students seeking a deeper understanding of the human experience and for students intending to pursue postgraduate work in geography or related disciplines, as well as students pursuing concurrent majors in geography and another discipline.

Options: General, Human Geography, Nature-Society Geography

For the B.A. degree in geography, a minimum of 120 credits is required.

### The Bachelor of Science

The bachelor of science (B.S.) major stresses the discipline's environmental and technical perspectives. The U.S. Department of Labor has identified geospatial technology as a high-growth industry, with excellent employment prospects.

Options: General, Geographic Information Science, Physical/Environmental Geography

For the B.S. degree in geography, a minimum of 120 credits is required.



## Research

The department supports several interdisciplinary research centers and labs, as well as individual faculty research projects, providing many opportunities for students to participate in research. Research areas include:

- forest fires and ecosystem change
- wetlands management and regulation
- climate change
- gendered dynamics of spatial processes
- how people understand geographic space
- cartography
- geographic visualization and geospatial data analysis
- social and environmental justice

*"I would HIGHLY recommend internships. I had a summer internship with the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas as a cartographer (that was my job title) and it helped me to decide which aspect of GIS I really liked. I was leaning toward remote sensing; however, I started liking cartography and geovisualization much better throughout this experience. Now I am employed by ESRI as a cartographer."*  
—Mark Smithgall



## Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available to outstanding geography undergraduates. In addition, geography majors are eligible to apply for academic enrichment funding to support co-curricular research and travel. In recent years, undergraduate awards have helped to fund travel to regional and national geography conferences; field experiences in Bulgaria, Ghana, Iceland, Peru, South Africa, among others; as well as undergraduate thesis research.



### For More Information:

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