

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of how people relate to their natural and human surroundings. Geography is a bridge discipline, an environmental science which brings together principles of physical sciences and other social sciences; a social science which looks at the spatial characteristics of culture, history, politics, economies and business decisions; and a liberal arts discipline which provides background for study in art, languages, literature, music, education and many other subjects. Geographers can bring to analyses of current issues an understanding of global interrelationships and specialized map-related skills. Many geographers develop professional skills in map interpretation, cartography and computer-based mapping and analysis. Geographic understanding and skills create the potential for employment in such diverse areas as planning and other government agencies, environmental and cartographic service companies, and the business community. Contact the department chairperson for more detailed information on career opportunities.

The liberal arts program in geography offers emphases in environmental studies, global studies and geospatial applications, and sustainability studies for geography majors and minors.

The Bachelor of Science program in Environmental and Spatial Sciences provides advanced training in geospatial technologies (i.e. geographic information science (GIS), global positioning system (GPS) technology, remote sensing, data management, and cartography), which positions students for careers in environmental analysis and mitigation of environmental problems. The program prepares students to assess environmental and human-environment systems, identify and evaluate environmental problems, and design innovative and sustainable solutions.

A minor in geography brings an added dimension to any major, and current geography minors hold majors in many different University departments. The program in secondary education, providing certification for social studies teaching with a geography emphasis, is also serving a growing demand. Every student will benefit from the liberal arts value of the introductory and regional geography courses.