

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 examines 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 geospatial technology skills. Many geographers develop professional skills in map interpretation, cartography, geographic information systems (GIS), and remote sensing. 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 Bachelor of Arts program in Geography offers major concentrations in environmental studies, geospatial applications, global studies, and sustainability studies. The major program requires 42 credit hours of study and a minor program of study outside the department.

The Bachelor of Science program in Environmental and Spatial Sciences provides advanced training in geospatial technologies, including: geographic information science (GIS), global positioning system (GPS) technology, remote sensing, data management, and cartography. Graduates of the program are well-positioned 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.

The Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) program in secondary education, providing certification for social studies teaching with a geography emphasis, serves students who are interested in a robust and well-rounded social studies preparation for their future teaching careers.

Minor programs of study in environmental geography, geospatial applications, global geography, sustainability studies, and general geography each require 18 credits and may be studied by those students in major programs other than the B.A. Geography.