## GEOGRAPHY

### What can I do with this major?

#### AREAS

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**

*Environmental geographers are concerned with how human beings use the earth and impact the environment.*

- Environmental Management
- Conservation
- Waste Management
- Environmental Regulation
- Emergency Management
- Outdoor Recreation Management

**CULTURAL & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

*Cultural and human geographers study the aspects of geography that relate to different cultures. They especially focus on cultural origins and movement and the cultural characteristics of regions.*

- Cultural Resources
- Historic Preservation
- Historical Consultation
- Community Development/Redevelopment
- Education
- Research

#### EMPLOYERS

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**

- Federal and state government: Environmental Protection Agency, Departments of Agriculture, National Forest Service, National Park Service
- Real estate developers
- Scientific and research groups
- Waste management companies
- Chemical companies
- Firms specializing in forestry, mining, environmental issues, or surveying
- Law firms

**CULTURAL & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

- State, regional, and local government
- Peace Corps
- Real estate developers
- Companies dealing with insurance, transportation, communications, and international trade
- Scientific and research groups
- Museums

#### STRATEGIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**

- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Take biology and chemistry courses for environmental management positions.
- Take electives in plant science, forestry and wildlife management for careers in recreation and forestry management.
- Join environmental organizations on campus and in your community.
- Seek environmental-related experience through internships, summer or part-time jobs.
- Learn federal government job application process.
- Earn a law degree for work areas such as environmental law and policy.

**CULTURAL & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

- Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.
- Learn how to conduct library research, make field observations, and interpret artifacts.
- Learn a foreign language for field observations in other countries.
- Participate in cross-cultural groups and organizations.
- Develop excellent communication and teamwork skills in order to work with historians and archivists in recreating the geography of the past.
- Obtain related experience in your area of interest through volunteer or paid positions including internships.
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.
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<td><strong>GEOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY</strong></td>
<td>Federal government agencies: Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State, Defense Mapping, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Central Intelligence Agency</td>
<td>Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, computer systems, database management, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, graphics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographers utilize a variety of technologies to generate maps, store, analyze and interpret map information.</td>
<td>State and regional government agencies: Departments of Transportation or Agriculture</td>
<td>Learn to be detail-oriented.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartography</td>
<td>Private industry including telephone, utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms</td>
<td>Gain experience reading maps and interpreting data sources including geological surveys and satellite images.</td>
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<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>Map publishers</td>
<td>Seek related experience, such as a part-time job or internship, to develop technical skills.</td>
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<td>Remote Sensing</td>
<td>Mapping software companies</td>
<td>Investigate federal, state, and local government job application process.</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<p>| PLANNING | City, county, and regional planning agencies | Develop team work and communication skills. |
| Planners ensure that communities develop in an orderly way and that they have the services necessary to support them. | Local and state government | Participate in student government. |
| | Federal government agencies including: Agency for International Development, World Bank, Department of Housing and Urban Development | Take courses in public administration or public finance. |
| City/Regional Planning | Research organizations | Observe city/county advisory meetings. |
| Housing Development | Private business | Seek internship or work experience in a local government office, as they are a large employer in this area. |
| Convention/Tourism | Banks Industrial firms | Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. |
| Community Development | Public utilities | Obtain master's degree in planning. |
| Demography | Architecture firms | Earn a dual degree in planning and law. |
| Transportation | Real estate developers | Research the certified planning credential obtained through the American Institute of Certified Planners. |
| Waste Management | | |
| Conservation | | |</p>
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<td><strong>PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Physical geographers study earth processes such as climate and weather. They also evaluate the impact of natural hazards such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.</td>
<td>State and local government&lt;br&gt;Federal government agencies including: US Department of Agriculture, US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, The National Resources Conservation Service&lt;br&gt;TV/Radio stations Agribusiness corporations Outdoor recreation companies Resource management agencies Research institutes Insurance companies</td>
<td>Develop strong analytical and communication skills. Take courses in physics, chemistry, soil science, agriculture. Take courses like weather systems, atmospheric dynamics, thermodynamics, physical meteorology for more job options in meteorology/atmospheric science. Gain experience through part-time jobs, internships or volunteer opportunities related to climate, weather or natural hazards. Be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability.</td>
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<td>Biogeography&lt;br&gt;Geomorphology&lt;br&gt;Natural Hazards&lt;br&gt;Weather and Climate&lt;br&gt;Hydrology&lt;br&gt;Environmental Regulation&lt;br&gt;Waste Management and Disposal</td>
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<td><strong>ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Economic geographers study the distribution of resources and economic activities within a certain region. They may use this information to advise organizations on where to build new facilities.</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government&lt;br&gt;Market research firms&lt;br&gt;Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms&lt;br&gt;Public utilities&lt;br&gt;Consulting firms&lt;br&gt;Real estate appraisers and developers&lt;br&gt;Banks</td>
<td>Develop strong communication skills. Take business courses such as economics, advertising, marketing, finance, statistics to increase marketability in the field. Earn a business minor. Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental. Observe city/county advisory meetings. Obtain business or planning-related work/volunteer experience to build contacts and increase marketability. Consider earning a master's degree in planning.</td>
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<td>Location Scouting&lt;br&gt;Real Estate Analysis&lt;br&gt;Transportation&lt;br&gt;Agricultural Planning&lt;br&gt;Travel/Tourism Planning</td>
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<td><strong>GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Geography teachers may specialize in one or more areas of the discipline or incorporate it into a social science education program.</td>
<td>Elementary/secondary schools, public and private colleges and universities</td>
<td>Develop strong communication skills, both oral and written. Seek volunteer or paid experiences, such as camp counselor or tutor, with target age group. Research state standards for certification. Obtain certification/licensure for public school teaching. Obtain multiple certifications for increased employability.</td>
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<td>Teaching&lt;br&gt;Research</td>
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### AREAS

### STRATEGIES

Specialize in an area such as quantitative research techniques, computer mapping, or natural resource management.

Join National Council for Geographic Education.

Complete a master’s degree for community college teaching or a Ph.D. for college/university teaching and research.

Maintain a high grade point average and build strong faculty recommendations to prepare for graduate school.

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bachelor’s degree qualifies you for entry-level positions in government and industry.
- Master’s degree qualifies you for community college teaching and advancement in industry and government.
- Ph.D. is required for research and teaching positions in colleges and universities and senior positions in government and industry.
- Geography provides a broad foundation for future career endeavors.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, internship, or co-op experience in your area of interest.
- Join professional organizations such as the American Geography Society or the National Council for Geographic Education.
- Become a member of groups directed toward improvement of natural resources or environment and pollution control.
- Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.
- Computer knowledge is extremely important in geography. Obtain experience with geographic information systems.
- Develop strong mathematical and statistical skills.
- Develop skills and interest in mapping, graphics, and charts. An interest in photography may prove beneficial.
- Develop good communication skills.
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
  o *The Association of American Geographers
  o National Council for Geographic Education
  o American Meteorological Society
  o American Congress on Surveying and Mapping

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK INFORMATION
  o Atmospheric Scientists
  o Geoscientists
  o Social Scientists
  o Environmental Scientists and Hydrologists
  o Surveyors, Cartographers, Photogrammetrists, and Surveying and Mapping Technicians
  o Teachers-Postsecondary

MISCELLANEOUS CAREER INFORMATION
  o *Geography Jobs
  o Guide to Geographic Information Systems
  o About Geography
  o Imaging and Geospatial Information Society
  o Making the Difference
  o A Call to Serve
  o US Geological Survey
  o Bureau of Land Management
  o Environmental Protection Agency
JOB POSTINGS

- Geojobs
- GeographyJobs.com
- Earth Works Jobs
- GIS Careers

* = Recommended Sites