# Geography

## What can I do with this degree?

### Areas

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

#### Cultural & Human Geography
- Cultural Resources
- Historic Preservation
- Historical Consultation
- Education
- Research

#### Economic Geography
- Location Scouting
- Real Estate Analysis
- Transportation
- Agricultural Planning
- Travel/Tourism Planning

### Employers

#### Environmental Geography
- Federal and state government
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Departments of Agriculture
  - National Forest Service
- Real estate developers
- Scientific and research groups
- Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering, environmental issues, waste management, architecture, or surveying.
- Law firms

#### Cultural & Human Geography
- State, regional, and local government
- Federal government including:
  - Central Intelligence Agency
  - Defense Mapping Agency
  - Bureau of Census
  - Department of State
  - National Park Service
- Peace Corps
- Real estate developers
- Companies dealing with insurance, transportation, communications, and international trade
- Scientific and research groups
- Museums

#### Economic Geography
- Federal, state, and local government
- Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms
- Public utilities
- Consulting firms
- Real estate developers
- Banks

### Strategies

#### Environmental Geography
*Environmental geographers are concerned with how human beings use the earth. They focus on human impact on the environment.*

- Learn federal government job application process.
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Courses in biology and chemistry are a must.
- Take elective courses in botany, plant science, and wildlife.
- For a career in law, you must earn a graduate degree in law.

#### 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.*

- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Develop excellent communication and teamwork skills in order to work with historians and archivists in recreating the geography of the past.
- Learn how to conduct library research, make field observations, and interpret artifacts.
- A good foreign language background is necessary for field observations in other countries.
- Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.

#### Economic Geography
*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.*

- Obtain business knowledge though coursework or related work experience.
- Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.
### AREAS

#### GEOTECHNIQUES
- Cartography
- Geographic Information Systems
- Remote Sensing

#### SOCIAL AND URBAN
- City/Regional Planning
- Housing Development
- Convention/Tourism
- Community Development
- Demography
- Transportation

#### GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION
- Teaching
- Research

### EMPLOYERS

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**Federal government agencies**
- Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State
- Defense Mapping
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Central Intelligence Agency
- State and regional government agencies
- Departments of Transportation or Agriculture
- Private industry including utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms
- Map publishers
- Colleges and universities

**City, county, and regional planning agencies**
- State government
- Federal government agencies including:
  - Agency for International Development
  - World Bank
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Research organizations
- Private business
- Banks
- Industrial firms
- Public utilities
- Real estate developers

**Elementary/secondary schools, public and private**
- Colleges and universities

### STRATEGIES

**Become skilled in related computer technology.**

**Learn photography skills.**

**Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, and graphics.**

**Seek work-related experience such as internships, and summer or part-time jobs.**

**Learn federal, state and local government job application process since most of these positions are in government agencies.**

**Develop excellent communication skills.**

**Develop team work skills.**

**Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Local government is a large employer in this area.**

**Maintain excellent academic undergraduate record.**

**Obtain master's degree in planning.**

**Take courses in public administration or public finance.**

**Planners ensure that communities develop in an orderly way and that they have the services necessary to support them.**

**Obtain certification/licensure for public school teaching.**

**Join National Council for Geographic Education and/or the Association of American Geographers.**

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

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

**Physical Geography**
- Biogeography
- Natural Hazards
- Hydrology
- Weather and Climate
- Geomorphology

### EMPLOYERS

State and local government
Federal government agencies including:
- US Geological Survey
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- The National Resources Conservation Service
TV/Radio stations
Agribusiness corporations
Outdoor recreation companies
Resource management agencies
Research institutes
Insurance companies

### STRATEGIES

Physical geographers study earth processes such as climate and weather. They also look at the impact of natural hazards such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.

- Take courses in physics and chemistry.
- Develop excellent communication skills.
- Be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability.

### 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.
- Computer knowledge is becoming extremely important in geography. Obtain experience with geographic information systems and computer-aided drafting (CAD).
- 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.