

# GEOGRAPHY

How can I use my training in Geography?

## 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 cultural characteristics of regions.

Cultural Resources  
Historic Preservation  
Historical Consultation  
Community  
Development/Redevelopment  
Education

## EMPLOYERS

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

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

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.  
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.

## AREAS

### GEOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY

Geographers utilize a variety of technologies to generate maps, store, analyze and interpret map information.

Cartography  
Geographic Information Systems  
Remote Sensing

## EMPLOYERS

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 telephone, utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms  
Map publishers  
Mapping software companies

## STRATEGIES

Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, computer systems, database management, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, and graphics.  
Learn to be detail-oriented.  
Gain experience reading maps and interpreting data sources including geological surveys and satellite images.  
Seek related experience such as a part-time job or internship, to develop technical skills.  
Investigate federal, state, and local government job application process.

### PLANNING

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

City/Regional Planning  
Housing Development  
Convention/Tourism  
Community Development  
Demography  
Transportation  
Waste Management  
Conservation

City, county, and regional planning agencies  
Local and 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  
Architecture firms  
Real estate developers

Develop teamwork and communication skills.  
Participate in student government.  
Take courses in public administration or public finance.  
Observe city/county advisory meetings.  
Seek internship or work experience in a local government office, as they are a large employer in this area.  
Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.  
Obtain master's degree in planning.  
Earn a dual degree in planning and law.  
Research the certified planning credential obtained through the American Institute of Certified Planners.

## AREAS

### **PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

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

Biogeography  
Geomorphology  
Natural Hazards  
Weather and Climate  
Hydrology  
Environmental Regulation  
Waste Management and Disposal

## EMPLOYERS

State and local government  
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  
TV/Radio stations  
Agribusiness corporations  
Outdoor recreation companies  
Resource management agencies  
Research institutes  
Insurance companies

## STRATEGIES

Develop strong analytical and communication skills.  
Take courses in physics, chemistry, soil science, and agriculture.  
Take courses like weather systems, atmospheric dynamics, thermodynamics, and 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.

### **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.

Location Scouting  
Real Estate Analysis  
Transportation  
Agricultural Planning  
Travel/Tourism Planning

Federal, state, and local government  
Market research firms  
Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms  
Public utilities  
Consulting firms  
Real estate appraisers and developers  
Banks

Develop strong communication skills.  
Take business courses such as economics, advertising, marketing, finance, and 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.

## AREAS

### **GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**

Geography teachers may specialize in one or more areas of the discipline or incorporate it into a social science education program.

Teaching  
Research

## EMPLOYERS

Elementary/secondary schools, public  
and private  
Colleges and universities

## STRATEGIES

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.  
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.

---

### **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 becoming extremely important in geography. Obtain experience with geographic information systems.