# GEOGRAPHY

## What can I do with this degree?

### 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

### 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

### 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.

### 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

- 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

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

- Cartography
- Geographic Information Systems
- Remote Sensing

### STRATEGIES
Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, computer systems, database management, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, 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.

### AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PLANNING</strong></th>
<th><strong>EMPLOYERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>STRATEGIES</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planners ensure that communities develop in an orderly way and that they have the services necessary to support them.</td>
<td>City, county, and regional planning agencies</td>
<td>Develop team work and communication skills.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Local and state government</td>
<td>Participate in student government.</td>
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<td>Federal government agencies: Agency for International Development, World Bank, Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>Take courses in public administration or public finance.</td>
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<td>Research organizations</td>
<td>Observe city/county advisory meetings.</td>
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<td>Private business</td>
<td>Seek internship or work experience in a local government office, as they are a large employer in this area.</td>
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<td>Banks</td>
<td>Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.</td>
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<td>Industrial firms</td>
<td>Obtain master's degree in planning.</td>
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<td>Public utilities</td>
<td>Earn a dual degree in planning and law.</td>
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<td>Architecture firms</td>
<td>Research the certified planning credential obtained through the American Institute of Certified Planners.</td>
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<td>Real estate developers</td>
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<td>Mappublishers</td>
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<td>Mapping software companies</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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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 telephone, utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms

Map publishers
Mapping software companies
Colleges and universities

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- 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
- Colleges and universities

### STRATEGIES
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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.

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<td><strong>PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</strong></td>
<td>State and local government</td>
<td>Develop strong analytical and communication skills.</td>
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<td>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>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</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>Geomorphology</td>
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<td>Natural Hazards</td>
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<td>Weather and Climate</td>
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<td>Hydrology</td>
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<td>Environmental Regulation</td>
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<td>Waste Management and Disposal</td>
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<td><strong>ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY</strong></td>
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<td>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 Market research firms Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms Public utilities Consulting firms Real estate appraisers and developers Banks</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>Real Estate Analysis</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Agricultural Planning</td>
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<td>Travel/Tourism Planning</td>
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<td><strong>GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<td>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</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION CONTINUED

AREAS

• 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.

EMPLOYERS

• 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.

STRATEGIES

GENERAL INFORMATION