

What can I do with a degree in... Geography?

Geography is concerned with the surface of the earth and its immediate atmosphere. Geographers study the similarities, the differences and interactions among phenomena in this region. Geographers are interested in the economic, social, political and environmental qualities of places, and in how these attributes interact. Recent geography graduates have been employed in urban and regional planning, community development, locational analysis in both the public and private sector, resource planning and management, various forms of domestic and Foreign Service, cartography and teaching. Department of Geography Website: <http://www.geog.okstate.edu/>

Geography majors develop the following skills:

Project Development:

Plan long-term projects
Develop project designs
Maintain records
Evaluation

Interpersonal:

Identify value systems
Observe human interactions
Understand group dynamics
Surveying & sampling
Interview skills

Research/Analysis:

Gather, examine & organize data
Computer modeling
Utilize statistical applications
Read/construct maps/graphs
Conduct field studies

Communication:

Communicate across cultures
Write clearly
Understand diverse societies
Summarize results
Present/defend position

Depending on your desired career path, additional skills may need to be developed to be competitive in the marketplace upon graduation. Make an appointment with a career consultant to design your individual career development plan.

College of Arts & Sciences Career Success E-Guide

Provided to all new, incoming students as an introduction to career planning process
If you don't have an E-Guide...Get one!!!
Visit the A&S Career Services Office

Questions?

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services
Student Success Center, LSE 2nd Floor
Stillwater, OK 74078-3016
Visit the A&S website to make an appointment to see a Career Consultant @
<http://ascareers.okstate.edu>

Build Skills Beyond the Classroom:

- Join related clubs, professional associations, & organizations
- Athletics/Sports
- Military
- Part-time Employment (Summer/Work Study)
- Internships/Job Shadowing
- Travel/Work Abroad
- Volunteer/Community Service

Job & Internship Web Sites

- GIS Connection
www.gisconnection.com
- Geo Job Source
<http://www.geojobsources.com/careerop.htm>
- Earthworks-jobs.com
<http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/>
- Geo Search Inc.
<http://www.geosearch.com>
- GIScareers.com
<http://giscareers.com/>
- GISjobs.com
<http://www.gisjobs.com/>
- GIS Jobs Clearinghouse
<http://www.gjc.org/>
- Association of American Geographers
<https://communicate.aag.org/eseries/scriptcontent/custom/giwis/cguide/>
- USA Jobs (Federal Government)
www.usa.jobs.opm.gov
- ESRI
<http://careers.esri.com/>
- Environmental Jobs & Careers
<http://www.ejobs.org/>
- State of Texas (Texas Geographic Information Council)
<http://www.dir.state.tx.us/tgic/jobs.htm>
- Millennium Technical Contracting, Inc.
<http://www.mtc2kinc.com/>
- Oklahoma State University's Careers in Geography
<http://www.geog.okstate.edu/careers.htm>
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
<http://www.usgs.gov/ohr/student/>
- National Geographic
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/jobs/>
- GISgig.com
www.gisgig.com

Sample Careers for Geography Majors

Human & Cultural Geography

...focuses on the aspects of geography that relate to different cultures, with an emphasis on cultural origins and movement and the cultural characteristics of regions (e.g., language, religion, ethnicity, politics, historical development, agricultural methods, settlement patterns, and quality of life). Many cultural and human geographers are area specialists as well, meaning they focus their attention on a specific region, such as Latin America, Europe, or Asia. Because they often carry out field observation in other countries, they will usually need good foreign-language backgrounds.

Career Options:

Peace Corp Volunteer
Community Developer
Map Librarian

Urban & Regional Planning

Geographers often work as planners to ensure that communities develop in an orderly way, along with the services necessary to support them. Planners must be able to develop building plans for subdivisions and housing projects. They need to understand all factors that affect the value of land and real estate. Planning is a rapidly expanding field, and geographers are filling a great many jobs.

Career Options:

Urban and Community Planner
Transportation Planner
Health Services Planner

Geographic Technology: Cartography/Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/Remote Sensing

One of the greatest growth areas is the use of computers to generate maps and store map-related information. They are used by planners, engineers, utility companies, state agencies, construction companies, surveyors, architects, and ordinary citizens.

Career Options:

Cartographer/Computer Mapper
Geographic Information System Specialist
Remote-Sensing Analyst

Environmental Geography

Environmental problems and catastrophes involving toxic waste, air pollution, and water pollution, great care is now being taken to monitor the delicate balance between nature and the human use of the earth. As a result, hundreds of new jobs have been created in environmental fields.

Career Options:

Forestry Technician
Park Ranger
Hazardous-Waste Planner

Regional Geography

Students in this field study major regions of the world, such as Latin America, Europe, and Asia. They become area experts and come to understand the way of life in particular countries. They bring real expertise and understanding to issues of U.S. foreign policy and to international business.

Career Options:

Area Specialist
International Business Manager
Ambassador
Travel Agent

Physical Geography

...examine the distribution of Earth's surface features and analyze the processes that create and shape landforms. Require dealing with problems of air and/or water pollution and management and disposal of solid, toxic and hazardous waste. They also study the impact of natural hazards such as hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Career Options:

Soil Conservationist/Agricultural Extension Agent
Hydrologist
Weather Forecaster

Economic Geography

...concerned with the location and distribution of economic activity. It focuses on the location of industries and retail and wholesale businesses, on transportation and trade, and on the changing value of real estate.

Career Options:

Location Expert/Analyst
Market Researcher
Traffic Manager/Route Delivery Manager

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), founded 1928
International Honor Society in Geography
Members of GTU have met academic requirements and share a background and interest in geography. GTU chapter activities support geography knowledge and awareness

For further research on career & employment options, utilize your preferred internet search engine. The following websites are a great place to begin your research:

www.monstertrak.com
www.quintcareers.com

www.mymajor.com
www.monster.com

www.careerbuilder.com
www.experience.com

www.bls.gov/oco
www.jobcentral.com