

GEOGRAPHY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

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
Real estate developers
Scientific and research groups
Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering,
environmental issues, waste management,
architecture, or surveying.
Law firms

STRATEGIES

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 Resources
Historic Preservation
Historical Consultation
Education
Resesarch

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

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

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

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

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

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

GEOTECHNIQUES

Cartography
Geographic Information Systems
Remote Sensing

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

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.

SOCIAL AND URBAN

City/Regional Planning
Housing Development
Convention/Tourism
Community Development
Demography
Transportation

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

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

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.

GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

Teaching
Research

Elementary/secondary schools, public and private
Colleges and universities

Obtain certification/licensure for public school
teaching.
Join National Council for Geographic Education
and/or the Association of American Geogra-
phers.
Complete a master's degree for community college
teaching or a Ph.D. for college/university teach-
ing 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.