WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN...

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is the study of the interrelationships between the earth and its people. It is considered both a social and natural science, oriented toward the methodologies of social science in which the importance of location is stressed. Geography focuses on climate, land, water, space, mineral resources, population density, changes in environment, and how people adapt to them.*

* Taken from College Majors and Careers by Paul Phifer and the UNC Charlotte Department of Geography and Earth Sciences website

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS

**Physical Geography**
- Meteorologist
- Geoscientist
- Oceanographer
- Emergency Manager

**Environmental Geography**
- Ecologist
- Hydrologists
- Atmospheric Scientist

**Planning**
- Urban Planner
- Marketing Researcher
- Transportation Planner

Tools & Technology
- Cartographer
- Surveying & Mapping Technician
- Radar & Satellite Imaging Aerial Photographer
- GIS Analyst
- Crime Analyst
- Anthropologist
- Archaeologist
- Teacher

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- Research Organizations
- Agribusiness Corporations
- Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
- Resource Mgmt Agencies
- Department of Agriculture
- US Geological Survey
- Real Estate Developers
- Utilities
- Map Publishers/Software Companies
- Educational Institutions

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER IN...

**Tools & Technology:** Develop strong computer skills, take courses in database management, surveying, measurements, and drafting, gain experience reading maps and interpreting data sources including geological surveys and satellite images, research required certification for surveying positions, develop detail-oriented and quantitative skills

**Planning:** Gain a thorough understanding of statistics and statistical computer software, develop strong verbal communication skills including conflict mediation, take electives in government, public administration, and business to understand the various constituents with which you will work, observe city/county advisory meetings, seek an internship in a local government office, participate in student government

**Environmental Geography:** Learn about state and federal regulations that govern natural resources, take electives to identify a specialty, take chemistry and biology to obtain management positions, volunteer with a nonprofit organization that supports environmental issues

**Physical Geography:** Gain experience related to climate, weather, natural hazards, and forestry, develop strong analytical and communication skills, conduct research with a professor, be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability, identify an area of interest (i.e. thermodynamics, weather systems)

RELATED WEBSITES

- AAG: Careers in Geography
  www.aag.org/cs/careers

- The American Geographical Society
  www.amergeog.org

- American Planning Association
  www.planning.org

- Association for Geographic Information
  www.agi.org.uk

- Society of Women Geographers
  www.iswg.org

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT’S RIGHT FOR ME?

**ASSESS:** Take a career assessment, such as the Strong Interest Inventory or MBTI, to see how your interests, values, and personality fit with majors and careers.

**RESEARCH:** Research the careers on this WCIDWAMI and thousands of other careers using these top career websites:

- http://onetonline.org
- http://www.bls.gov/oco

**EXPLORE:** Learn more about a career field of interest by job shadowing, attending a career panel, or participating in a Company Trek. Further your exploration while gaining valuable skills by completing an internship, co-op, volunteer, or research experience.

**For the expanded version of this WCIDWAMI, visit**
career.uncc.edu/majors/geography