Geography is the study of the relationship between the earth and its people, and between culture and the environment. Geographers receive training in both the natural and social sciences that prepares them for a wide range of careers in business, government, planning, and teaching. At University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, students can choose a comprehensive major with a resource management or international studies emphasis; a traditional major with a physical geography, human geography, or a geographic techniques emphasis; or a geography teaching major. Students also have the option of a liberal arts geography minor, a geography teaching minor, or an anthropology minor.

Typical interests and values of geography majors:
- Intellectual growth
- Independence
- Desire to help and influence people
- Spirit of scientific inquiry
- Desire to help people adapt to their environments

Knowledge and skills gained from studying geography:

Knowledge:
As a geography major, students will gain knowledge of maps and environments. In addition, they acquire an awareness of diverse cultures by studying both the land and the people. Geography graduates expand their knowledge of agricultural productivity, urban housing, waste disposal, environmental quality, and the value of land and real estate.

Skills:
- Ability to manage time and resources
- Acute form and spatial perception
- Aptitude for accurate details
- Thorough understanding of geographical skills and statistical techniques
- Ability to conduct and clearly explain scientific research
- Ability to read and construct maps and graphs
- Gathering, organizing and accurately reporting meaningful information
- Identifying problems and implementing appropriate and effective solutions
- Identifying and evaluating resources
- Coordinating tasks and delegating responsibility
- Setting and meeting goals and deadlines
- Computer and technical skills

Related student and professional organizations:
Student:
- Gamma Theta Upsilon, National Geography Honor Society
- Wisconsin Geographic Alliance
- Geography Club
- Student Conservation Association

Professional:
- American Geographical Society
- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Society of Women Geographers
- National Geographic Society

Career Fields related to geography:

Potential Employers:
Geography majors are able to hold a variety of careers because of their knowledge and analytical skills. In addition to working in traditional geographic fields, geography majors work in administrative, planning, and even communications areas. Geography graduates are presented in a variety of sectors including government agencies, private and public industries, and research organizations.

Potential Job Titles:
- Cartographer
- Energy Researcher
- Secondary Teacher
- Energy Administrator
- Travel Agent
- Forestry Aide
- Site Researcher
- Land Developer
- Site Researcher
- Land Developer
- Map Analyst
- Meteorologist
- Forest Ranger
- Climatologist
- Surveyor
- Geophysics Assistant
- Wildlife Manager
- Transportation Analyst
- Land-Use Analyst
- Teacher
Industrial Developer
Geographer
Remote Sensing Analyst
Zoning Investigator
Real Estate Development Researcher
Consulting Operations Administrator
Environmental Researcher
Historical Projects Coordinator

Jobs You Might also Consider...
Urban/Regional Planner    Demographer
Market Research Analyst    Travel Agent
Computer Programmer       Ecologist
Technical Writer           Editor
Civil Drafter              Web Designer
Range Manager

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire geography graduates:
- GIS Aide, Three Rivers Park District, Plymouth, MN
- Meter Reader, Xcel Energy, Sparta, WI
- Central Irrigation Specialist, Spot Water Management, San Jose, CA
- 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, River Falls School District, River Falls, WI
- Wildlife Technician, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Macdoel, CA
- Soil Conservation Technician, NRCS, Chippewa Falls, WI

Learn more about geography:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Geography and Anthropology, Phillips 261, 836-3244

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing.
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum.

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section-
- Sigi 3 handouts:

Orange Section-

Blue Section-
- Resources on creating a resume and cover letter for a career in geography.

Opportunities to enhance skills in geography:
Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in geography or anthropology, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the Geography & Anthropology Department chair about enrolling in GEOG 498 to obtain academic credit for your internship.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in GEOG 395, 399, or 499; or ANTH 395, 399, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Become a teacher assistant for a professor in the Geography and Anthropology Department.
- Become a troop leader in a local Boy/Girl Scout troop.
- Get a summer job as an assistant park ranger.
- Be an intern for a conservatory, the DNR, the National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Development.
- Conduct informational interviews or job shadows.