



GEOGRAPHY

UW-EAU CLAIRE UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Geographers examine physical and cultural patterns and processes to gain insight into human habitation of the earth. They emphasize the importance of the relative location of places and events, the character and interplay of natural and cultural processes and regions, and the relations between cultures and the physical environment. Their answers provide geographical knowledge critical to decision makers in business, resource management, law, education, planning, government/public affairs and health sciences. Similarly, they work closely with and make important research contributions to other disciplines such as geology, ecology, archaeology and anthropology, biology, history, economics and the humanities.

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

- With training in both the physical and social sciences, and geographic techniques such as geographic information systems, global positioning systems and computer cartography, geographers from UW-Eau Claire have a range of career opportunities in business, government, research, planning and teaching.
- Through field research using cutting-edge technology (including GPS and ground penetrating radar), and hands-on training with state-of-the-art GIS and other computing technology, geographers from UW-Eau Claire are well equipped with the skills and experience demanded by 21st century employers. Geography students at UW-Eau Claire gain valuable experience with solving real-world problems, gathering and analyzing data, interpreting earth surface processes, functioning as part of interdisciplinary research teams

and producing and presenting technical reports, all while using a wide variety of field, laboratory and geographic research methods, tools and techniques.

- Geographers at UW-Eau Claire are trained to play key roles in finding solutions to vital issues such as crime, transportation, world hunger, waste disposal, water management, environmental hazards, natural and cultural resource management, agriculture and housing.
- Geography is solid preparation for graduate studies.

THE EAU CLAIRE ADVANTAGE

- Distinguished history of one-on-one faculty mentoring.

UW-EAU CLAIRE FACTS AT A GLANCE

- Location: Eau Claire, Wis.; city pop. 64,000, metro. pop. 151,000
- Average enrollment: 10,500
- Undergraduates: 10,063
- Graduate students: 503
- International students: 124
- Multicultural students: 485
- Average men-women ratio: 2-to-3
- Students who spend at least a semester studying abroad: 24%
- Students doing undergraduate research with faculty/staff: 710+
- ACT composite average: 24+
- Average high school rank: 77%
- Average class size: 28
- Faculty-student ratio: 1-to-20
- Computers-student ratio: 1-to-9
- Student organizations: 224
- Walk across campus: About 10 minutes
- Nickname: Blugolds
- Colors: Navy and old gold

- Through our faculty/student collaborative research program, students participate in fascinating research projects while working with a professor in their field and gaining in-depth knowledge for their careers or graduate school.
- Excellent computer, GPS and field equipment as well as computing, GIS and remote sensing software resources.
- Geography majors may earn credit while gaining on-the-job experience through internships with city, county and regional governments or private businesses.
- Training in state-of-the-art GIS, GPS and remote sensing.
- The university library is a Federal Map Depository with a collection of more than 92,000 maps in its Simpson Map Library, which can be used for research and study.
- Unlike many other public universities, classes are not taught by teaching assistants. Students work alongside dedicated professors who inspire learning.

CAREER OPTIONS

- Plan, build and manage GISs for public and private sector applications.
- Work as a professional cartographer by designing and drawing maps for local, state or federal agencies involved in land use planning and management.
- Work for businesses by selecting sites for shopping centers or factories.
- Make maps and create and manage GIS databases for corporations.
- Serve as a geomorphologist or environmental analyst for an environmental engineering company.
- Work for a travel company.

- Work as a geoarchaeologist in a private cultural resource management firm.
- Work for governmental agencies in land use planning and natural and cultural resource management.
- Develop computer software to process satellite imagery and environmental resource databases.
- Teach social studies in elementary schools or geography in secondary schools, or receive a graduate degree and teach at a college or university.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

The UW-Eau Claire department of geography offers:

Comprehensive majors

- Geography – resource management
- Geography – international studies

Standard majors

- Geography – physical
- Geography – human
- Geography – geographic techniques
- Geography – liberal arts
- Geography – teaching

Minors

- Geography – liberal arts
- Geography – teaching

Areas of emphasis in minor: physical geography, cultural geography, cartography, land use, urban-economic geography

Geography courses also are an important component of the interdisciplinary environmental science minor.

Note: Students are encouraged to minor or take courses in related areas such as geology, biology, archaeology and anthropology, computer science, economics, history, mathematics, sociology, political science and business.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION

- Students should be interested in environmental and human relationships, people and places in the United States and abroad, weather and climate, soils, water and earth resources, landforms, ecology and the quality of life in rural and urban areas. Geography majors also should enjoy working outdoors, taking field trips and working with computers.
- Students planning to major in geography are encouraged to successfully complete high school courses in English, mathematics, earth and physical sciences, public speaking, history and geography.
- All students who enroll at UW-Eau Claire are required to have a minimum of 17 college preparatory units including:
 - 4 years of English (at least 3 composition and literature)
 - 2 years of a single foreign language
 - 3 years of math (algebra, geometry, 1 advanced college preparatory math)
 - 3 years of natural science
 - 3 years of social science (1 must be world or American history)
 - 2 additional units in the areas already mentioned or other academic areas

FRESHMAN COURSE WORK

Sample First Year

FALL SEMESTER		
COURSE#	TITLE	CREDITS
Hist 124	World History to 1500	3
Engl 110	Introduction to College Writing	5
	Social science general education elective	3
	Natural science general education elective	3
	Humanities elective	3

SPRING SEMESTER

COURSE#	TITLE	CREDITS
Hist 125	World History since 1500	3
	Communications general education elective	3

Social science general education elective	3
Natural science general education elective	3
Humanities elective	3

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about UW-Eau Claire's programs in geography, contact:

GEOGRAPHY

Phillips Hall 257
 UW-Eau Claire
 Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
 715-836-3244
www.uwec.edu/geography

For more information about campus including costs, housing, admission requirements and tours:

ADMISSIONS

Schofield Hall 112
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 715-836-5415
admissions@uwec.edu
www.uwec.edu/admissions



Experience the Eau Claire Advantage.