# Geography

**Introductory Advising Guide 2014 - 2015**

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### About the major:

**Geographers ask big questions** – What is a place, or a region? How is it created? What are its social and physical characteristics? Where is it? Why is it where it is? Who cares? Geography is a scientific discipline that engages a spatial perspective to explore such questions and issues associated with the human condition, the natural world, and the interconnections between humans and the environment. At UWEC, students have the opportunity to learn how to apply the geographic approach as they develop 1) highly marketable skills using advanced geospatial technology such as GPS and GIS and, 2) a solid knowledge of the Earth, our natural and human systems, and the interactions among them that make up the real world we live in. This combination of perspective, technical tools and thinking skills situates graduates well for the multidisciplinary world in which they will be working.

Geography does not end after middle school, and is not limited to place memorization. It is a vibrant, multidisciplinary approach to thinking about our world – an understanding of space and spatial relationships. We emphasize learning through experience and observation, whether in our backyard or across continents.

**The department of Geography and Anthropology** offers two comprehensive Geography majors, a liberal arts Geography major (within which there are five geographic approaches – human, physical, human-environment, regional, and geospatial techniques), a Geography teaching major, a Geography minor, and a geospatial certificate for students who want to pursue advanced technical skills. (The Department also offer an anthropology minor)

### Majors:
- Geography, Liberal Arts
- Geography, Teaching
- Geography, CM, Environmental
- Geography, CM, International

### Minors:
- Geography, Liberal Arts
- Geography, Teaching

**Certificate:** Geospatial

### Essential Courses:

Many Geography courses are also GE electives, including the following 100-level courses: Geog 104, 111, 155, 178, and 188. These introductory courses are great gateways to the contemporary geography.

All geography majors require completion of a **CORE curricula** consisting of Geog 104 (The Physical Environment), Geog 111 (Human Geography), Geog 178 (Conservation of the Environment), Geog 200 (Foundations of Geography), Geog 328 (Quantitative Methods), Geog 335 (GIS I), Geog 368 (Geography Field Seminar) and Geog 401 (Capstone Seminar).

In addition, all geography majors are required to complete courses from the Advanced Geography Approaches list (see catalog). These include a wide array of fascinating courses, including political geography, the geography of food, weather and society, fluvial processes, remote sensing, Web GIS, and regional geographies of places like Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The following is a list of courses liberal arts majors should take to graduate in four years:
- **Year 1** – Geog 104, 111, and 178, GE Electives
- **Year 2** – Geog 200, Geog 335, and GE electives
- **Year 3** – Geog 328, GEOG 368, Advanced Geog approach courses, and upper division electives
- **Year 4** – Geog 401, Advanced Geog approach courses
### Required GE or University courses:
Liberal Arts Geography majors choose a Bachelor of Arts (foreign language required) or a Bachelor of Science degree within the College of Arts and Science. The General Education requirements differ depending on the degree, so the student should consult the Catalog. **Geography Teaching majors** follow the General Education for Early Adolescence through Adolescence majors within the College of Education and Human Sciences.

### Tips for Geography teaching majors:
Students interested in teaching Geography are better served by choosing the Broadfield Social Studies major with a dual concentration in History and Geography.

### Information for exploring students:
Geog 104, 111, and 178 and our regional geographies are excellent choices for students wishing to explore geography majors and minors.

### Contact information:
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For instructions about how to declare this major:  
www.uwec.edu/Registrar/student/chgofmajor/index.htm

UW-Eau Claire respects individual differences.  
This guide complements rather than substitutes for individual advising.  
An example of a 4year plan in geography can be found at:www.uwec.edu/AcadAff/degreeplans/geog.htm