

Geography



Are you curious about other places and spaces around the world? Geography is a scientific discipline that engages a spatial perspective to explore questions and issues associated with the human condition, natural world and the interconnections between humans and the environment.

Geographers analyze cultural and environmental spatial patterns and relationships to better understand the human experience. This perspective and understanding of space and place is critical in the areas of business, resource management, law, education, planning, tourism, international relations, demography, government/public affairs and health sciences.

Majors

- **Geography** - Liberal Arts

Comprehensive majors (no minor required)

- **Geography** - Environmental Geography
- **Geography** - Transnational Geography
- **Geography** - Geospatial Analysis and Technology

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Minors

- **Geography** - Liberal Arts
- **Geography** - Teaching
- **Environment, Society, Culture**

Where you'll find our grads

- Cartographer, National Geographic, Washington, D.C.
- Coastal Hazards Outreach Specialist, Oregon State Extension, Astoria, OR
- Geospatial Technician, Continental Mapping, Sun Prairie, WI
- GIS Management Officer, UNICEF,

“The Geography department’s focus on strong mentorship, interdisciplinary connections, domestic and international travel, and hands-on research experiences provides a key piece in the puzzle in solving current social issues.”

— Corrin Turkowitch | Class of 2014

- Gaziantep, Turkey
- Senior Operations Manager, FedEx, Eau Claire, WI
- Transportation Planner, Amazon, Seattle, WA
- Water Management Specialist, WI DNR and Dunn County, WI
- Grad schools: Arizona State, Boston University, Kansas, Michigan State, Oregon, Penn State, S. Illinois, Tennessee, UCONN, UM-Mankato, UW-Madison

Geography (continued)

Prepared for Success

Geographers are everywhere in the public, private and non-profit sectors. There are careers for geographers in education; environmental engineering and consulting; land-use planning and resource management, at the municipal through the Federal levels; emergency management and NGO relief organizations; in industry, supervising shipping routes and identifying industrial locations; public utilities, managing infrastructure; travel and international business, helping companies understand the people and places where they do commerce; and in the retail sector, siting store locations and analyzing markets and customers.

As an integrative discipline, geography connects the local with the global and helps students take full advantage of a UW-Eau Claire liberal arts education, providing the tools to allow graduates to be flexible and adapt to a dynamic job market. According to predictions by the Department of Labor, geospatial technologies will be among the fastest growing career areas over the next two decades.

Why UW-Eau Claire

Scholarships

The Geography department distributes thousands of dollars annually from its endowments to support the accomplishments and aspirations of their students, including the following:

- Four renewable Geography scholarships for incoming freshmen
- Up to ten merit-based scholarships for Geography majors
- Study abroad scholarships for all Geography students

Scholarships are also awarded to students who present their research at regional, national and international

conferences to offset their travel costs. Lastly, the department pays the initiation fee for all students who are accepted into the International Geographic Honorary Society.

Hands-On Experience

The Geography department's estate gift from the Simpson family to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, along with other departmental and university funding, makes high-impact experiences accessible for all Geography students. Students gain valuable experience solving real-world problems, gathering and analyzing data, interpreting earth surface processes, functioning as part of interdisciplinary research teams, and producing professional presentations and reports. Students learn a wide variety of field, laboratory, and social/natural science research methods, tools and techniques. Field trips that provide opportunities for students to develop and apply their geographic knowledge and skills are an important component of many classes. Extended field-based courses to such places as the desert Southwest, Louisiana, Hawaii, New York City, New Zealand, Turkey, and the Great Lakes region, are offered annually. To support global engagement, the Geography department has unique relationships with the geography programs at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Students also may travel while presenting their research, including to San Francisco for the American Association of Geographers Conference (see image at top of page).

Innovative Facilities

While students at most universities do

not use high-end equipment until the graduate level, UW-Eau Claire students use sophisticated geospatial tools as undergraduates. Field experiences provide students with opportunities to use cutting-edge approaches and technologies, including state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS) and remote sensing software, ground penetrating radar, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

The university library is a Federal Map Depository with a collection of over 92,000 maps in its Simpson Map Library, which can be used for research and study. In addition, the department has two computer labs dedicated to geospatial science (cartography, GIS, remote sensing) and is well-regarded for its interdisciplinary work with departments across campus.

First-Year Suggested Curriculum

- Human Geography
- The Physical Environment
- Conservation of the Environment
- Intro to Geospatial Analysis
- University writing requirement (depending on placement exam)
- Math competency for BS/BA degree
- Liberal education core classes

Special Admission Guidelines

Students with a spatial curiosity and imagination are encouraged to meet with geography faculty as early as possible as they explore courses and possible minors in related disciplines, and to discuss career opportunities.