



# What can I do with a Major in...

## Geography

### What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the earth and its features, inhabitants, and phenomena, a literal translation would be "to describe or write about the Earth."

### What is Geography at U of L?

The Department of Geography and Geosciences offers the Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Geography with four areas of concentration: environmental analysis, global and regional studies, urban and regional analysis and geographic information science.

#### Degrees in Geography at U of L:

Bachelor of Science in:

Applied Geography

Concentration: Environmental Analysis, Urban and Regional Analysis, Global and Area studies, Geographic Information Science

Minor: Geography, Environmental Analysis, Urban and Regional Analysis

### Occupational Overview

Study nature and use of areas of earth's surface, relating and interpreting interactions of physical and cultural phenomena. Conduct research on physical aspects of a region, including land forms, climates, soils, plants and animals, and conduct research on the spatial implications of human activities within a given area, including social characteristics, economic activities, and political organization, as well as researching interdependence between regions at scales ranging from local to global.

### Employment Requirements

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school. For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree).

### Career Opportunities in Geography:

#### Possible Entry Level Job Titles:

Aerial Photo Interpreter  
Facilities Planner  
Land Developer  
Site Researcher  
Agricultural Extension Agent  
Forestry Technician  
Land Economist  
Soil Conservationist  
Air/Water Quality Control Manager



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Geographer  
Land-Use Analyst  
Surveyor  
Cartographer  
Geographic Area Specialist  
Location Expert Systems Analyst  
Cartography Compiler  
Geographic Attache' Map Analyst  
Teacher  
Climatologist  
Geographic Information Systems  
Map Curator/Librarian  
Traffic Manager  
Coastal Zone Manager  
Geophysics Assistant  
Map Editor  
Transportation Analyst  
Community Developer  
Hazardous Waste Planner  
Market Research Analyst  
Transportation Manager  
Computer Mapper  
Health Services Planner  
Natural Resources Spec.  
Travel Agent/Specialist  
Computer Programmer  
Health Services Organization Manager Outdoor Guide  
Urban/Regional Planner  
Demographer  
Hydrologist  
Park Ranger  
Weather Forecaster  
Earth Scientist  
Industrial Developer  
Peace Corp Volunteer  
Wildlife Manager  
Ecologist Industrial Planner  
Property Manager  
Writer/Author Editor  
Intelligence Agent  
Public Utilities Specialist  
Zoning Investigator Env.  
Impact Analyst  
International Business Rep  
Real Estate Agent/Broker/Appraiser  
Environmental Quality Specialist International Investment Analyst  
Remote Sensing Analyst  
College/University Professor



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### Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

**Environmental:** Federal and state government: Environmental Protection Agency, Departments of Agriculture, National Forest Service - Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering, environmental issues, waste management, architecture, or surveying - Law firms - Real estate developers - Scientific and research groups

**Suggested Strategy:** Learn federal government job application process. Become skilled in related computer technology. Courses in biology and chemistry are a must. Take elective courses in botany, plant science, and wildlife. For a career in law, you must earn a graduate degree in law.

**Cultural & Human:** Companies dealing with insurance, transportation, communications, and international trade - Federal government including: Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Mapping Agency, Bureau of Census, Department of State, National Park Service - Museums - Peace Corps - Real estate developers - State, regional, and local government

**Suggested Strategy:** Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Become skilled in related computer technology. Develop excellent communication and teamwork skills in order to work with historians and archivists in recreating the geography of the past. Learn how to conduct library research, make field observations, and interpret artifacts. A good foreign language background is necessary for field observations in other countries. Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.

**Economic:** Banks - Consulting firms - Federal, state, and local government - Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms - Public utilities - Real estate developers

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain business knowledge through coursework or related work experience. Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.

**Physical:** Agribusiness corporations - Federal government agencies including: US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, The National Resources Conservation Service - Insurance companies - Outdoor recreation companies - Research institutes - Resource management agencies - State and local government - TV/Radio stations

**Suggested Strategy:** Take courses in physics and chemistry. Develop excellent communication skills. Be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability.

### Related Links in the Geography Discipline:

#### **Professional Association Links**

National Imagery & Mapping Agency (formerly the Defense Mapping Agency)

US Army Corps of Engineers <http://www.usace.army.mil:80/>

Association of American Geographers <http://www.aag.org/>

National Climate Data Center <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>

EARTHWORKS <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/>

National Geographic <http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

National Park Service <http://www.nps.gov/>

US Geological Survey <http://www.usgs.gov/>

National Council for Geographic Education <http://www.ncge.org/>

List of scholarly societies and links to them [http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/society/geog\\_soc.html](http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/society/geog_soc.html)

#### **Career Planning Links**

Definitions of Geography <http://www.westga.edu/~geograph/define.html>

Careers in Geography <http://www.uwosh.edu/departments/geography/careers.html>

Occupational Outlook Handbook - Geography <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocoigl.htm#G>

Geography as a Discipline <http://geography.miningco.com/>

Resources for Geographers <http://www.colorado.edu/geography/virtdept/contents.htm>

Careers in Geography <http://www.aag.org/Careers/Intro.html>

Career Converter <http://6steps.monster.com/step1/careerconverter>

Career Fields <http://career.berkeley.edu/Infolab/CareerFields.stm>



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Resources [http://guide.symphlicity.com/resources/profession\\_index\\_a\\_z.php](http://guide.symphlicity.com/resources/profession_index_a_z.php)  
<http://www.bw.edu/career/programs/wcidwami>  
Delaware <http://www.udel.edu/CSC/mrk.html>  
Careers in Geography new link  
<http://www.uwosh.edu/departments/geography/geog/geocareer.php>

### Ideas for Volunteer/Internship/ Co-op

Geoplace.com [www.geoplace.com/class/default.asp](http://www.geoplace.com/class/default.asp)  
GIS Connection [www.gisconnection.com](http://www.gisconnection.com)  
Geo Job Source <http://www.geojobsources.com/careerop.htm>  
Monster TRAK <http://www.monstertrak.com>  
Earthworks-jobs.com <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/>  
Careers in geography <http://geography.miningco.com/msub41.htm>  
Geo Search Inc. <http://www.geosearch.com>  
giscareers.com <http://giscareers.com/>  
GISjobs.com <http://www.gisjobs.com/>  
GIS Jobs Clearinghouse <http://www.gjc.org/>  
USA jobs <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

### Salary/Outlook Info



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>