



What can I do with a major in Geography

Geographers hold the world in their hands. They study it, map it, chart the impacts of civilization upon it and project future changes to it. Geographers analyze the varying nature of places, the distribution of physical and human activity over the surface of the earth, and the human relationships with the environment; as they exist now, existed in the past and may or should exist in the future.

Map-making, geographic information science (GIS), and remote sensing are some of the techniques used to study global and regional patterns that affect human life on Earth. In recent years people have discovered that large numbers of societal problems have geographic dimensions and that education in geography provides essential skills for real-world problem solving. As a result, geography has become a necessary ingredient in hundreds of different jobs. The following list contains a representative sample of job titles for geography majors.

Students at UWM have the option of completing one of five tracks for their major: 1) urban-cultural, 2) general geography-area studies, 3) environmental, 4) physical systems and 5) regional and educational.

(Some careers may require specialized skills or additional education/training)

To **research these careers and others**, visit the [UWM Career Development Center's](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC): (www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC)

- Website section-[Researching Careers](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC/research_careers.html) (www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC/research_careers.html)
- Career Information Library in Mellencamp 128

Aerial Photo Interpreter	Public Utilities Specialist	Research Analyst	Energy Communications Specialist
Government Policy Analyst	Cartographer	Conservationist	Map Curator/Librarian
Preservation/Restoration Assistant	Laboratory Technician	Lawyer	Systems Analyst
Agricultural Planner/Inspector	Real Estate Analyst	Research Technician	Energy Researcher
Hazardous Waste Manager	Cartography Compiler	Consultant	Map Editor
Professor	Land Developer	Legislative Assistant	Teacher
Associate Field Analyst	Real Estate Agent	Sales Representative	Engineer
Historian	City Planner	Convention & Tourism Specialist	Mapping Technician
Program Assistant	Land Surveyor	Lobbyist	Environmental Educator
Biogeographer	Real Estate Developer	Science Librarian	Natural Resources Specialist
Hydrologist	Climatologist	Demographer	Technical/Scientific Writer
Project Manager	Land Titles Investigator	Management Trainee	Environmental Impact Analyst
CAD Editor	Recreational Resource Planner	Site Researcher	Nature Guide
Imagist	Community Outreach Specialist	Ecologist	Environmental Program Coordinator
Public Opinion Pollster	Land Use Analyst	Market Researcher	Oceanographer
Camp Counselor	Remote Sensing Analyst	Emergency Management Officer	
Intelligence Officer	Computer Mapper	Map Analyst	
	Landscape Architect	Surveyor	

WORK SETTINGS

Agricultural firms	Resource management agencies	Department of Agriculture
Engineering firms	Central Intelligence Agency	Landscaping companies
Peace Corps/VISTA	International development agencies	Surveying firms
Architectural firms	Retail development firms	Department of Defense
Environmental advocacy orgs	Colleges & universities	Law firms
Planning agencies	International trade organizations	Transportation companies
Bureau of Census	Scientific & research groups	Dept of Housing & Urban Develop.
Environmental education centers	Construction companies	Nature centers
Policy orgs (Green Peace, Sierra Club)	Manufacturing firms	Travel/tourism agencies
Bureau of Land Management	Scientific journals	Department of Interior
Environmental Protection Agency	Consulting firms	National Forest Service
Publishers (textbooks and maps)	Mining companies	U.S. Geological Survey
Business & industry	Soil Conservation Service	Department of Natural Resources
Federal government	Defense Mapping Agency	Non-profit organizations
Real estate & land developers	Laboratories	Waste management companies
Historic preservation agencies	State, regional & local governments	

SKILLS DEVELOPED

Research/Analysis

Identify issues and define scope of research problems
Examine, analyze and interpret data/information
Conduct field studies/sampling
Apply non-intrusive methods
Interpret and critically analyze research findings
Utilize statistical applications and computer modeling
compare and compile research reports
Understand components of complex problems
Reason and think critically
Analyze impact of problems on society
Identify relationships between factors

Verbal/Written Communication

Interview effectively and non-judgmentally
Formulate and defend/debate positions
Inform and explain ideas and theories
Present information clearly and persuasively
Write grant proposals
Design charts/graphs to inform and explain ideas
Articulate differences and similarities
Write clear and concise reports, proposals, and scientific research findings

Project Development

Plan and organize long-term projects
Develop project designs
Define project goals and objectives
Identify and gather resources
Develop timelines and deadlines
Evaluate progress
Maintain and organize records

Cross-Cultural/Societal Perspective

Communicate across cultures
Recognize and appreciate cultural Differences/similarities
Identify assumptions/presuppositions
Examine problems from a variety of perspectives
Integrate and compare multiple approaches to social issues
Understand and interpret the past and the present
Understand human and cultural events
Knowledge of how societies cope with changing circumstances

CAREER INFORMATION LINKS

- Careers of UWM Geography Graduates <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/prof.html>
- Descriptions of the Fields of Geography http://www.aag.org/Careers/Geographic_Fields.html
- Geographer Contact List <http://www.aag.org/Careers/ContactList/Contactlistmap.html>
- Association of American Geographers <http://www.aag.org/>

CAREER SPECIFIC JOB LINKS

- United States Federal Government <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/index.asp>
- Earthworks-jobs.com <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/>
- EarthNet <http://www.envirocitizen.org/enet/jobs/index.asp>
- Environmental Job and Careers <http://www.ejobs.org/>
- GIS Jobs Clearinghouse <http://www.gjc.org/gjc-cgi/listjobs.pl>

The following openings are not current, but they are "real" job advertisements. Consider what skills and abilities are being asked for in these jobs and consider what you'll need to do (ideally, while you are still in school) to prepare yourself for other jobs like these.

Geographic Analyst I - Madison, WI

The Geographic Analyst I learns processes and develops proficiency in data collection, interpretation and GIS application skills of a Geographic Analyst. **Performs and develops proficiency in the following activities:**

Collect locally based research materials, order source/reference material and conduct evaluation of source materials
Create planning maps for current and future database projects. Perform field data collection using prescribed technology, methodology and specifications. Process Database Update Requests. Perform Points of Interest data collection
Geocode attributes using prescribed software utilizing company specifications. Perform established procedures for in-line quality assurance. Implement current update methodologies. Conduct release processes to support prescribed requirements
Conduct systematic route testing of completed database(s)

Requirements: Bachelor level degree in a related field (e.g., sciences, geography, planning, business, geology, earth science, environmental studies) or equivalent experience. One-year experience in business, planning agency or computer related work is preferred; GIS experience is preferred. The incumbent must have the ability to travel without restriction within and outside the Area. Valid driver's license and good driving record.

Skills: Proficient in PC software packages and familiar with geography encoding. Ability to communicate effectively in writing, orally and through telephone contact, Demonstrated ability to analyze data, problem solve, prioritize and organize to achieve stated goal. Demonstrated ability for spatial orientation; i.e. applying map to "real world" and mapping "real world" observations.

Contact: GeoSearch, Inc., PO Box 60789, Colorado Springs, CO 80960
(719) 575-9100 : phone, (719) 632-7722 : fax

GIS Programmer Analyst Sr.

Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, Virginia, US

Seeking an individual to fill an advanced level GIS position that performs complex GIS design, programming and analysis tasks by utilizing multiple platforms, languages and databases. Work involves developing and implementing GIS applications by interpreting user requirements; diagnosing and resolving issues with GIS application configurations and setup; researching, evaluating and recommending the use of new technologies; applying programming and analysis skills; evaluating and coordinating user requests for new or modified applications to determine feasibility, cost and time requirements; loading, tuning and testing data in SDE/Oracle geodatabase; managing metadata server; and developing views and/or web services for enterprise access to data.

Skills: Bachelor level degree in a related field (e.g., sciences, geography, planning, business, geology, earth science, environmental studies) or equivalent experience. Must have demonstrated knowledge of the principles and techniques of systems and GIS design and analysis; experience developing applications using ArcObjects, ArcXML, Java and .Net including Map.Net; knowledge of programming principles and practices; knowledge of geographic analysis principles and practices; thorough knowledge of relational databases and geodatabases (ArcSDE); proficiency with ArcMap, ArcCatalog and ArcToolBox; thorough knowledge of effective project management methods; strong leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills; ability to work in a team environment with limited supervision; and ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing. A criminal background check is required for position.

Contact: Human Resources Phone: (804)864-7100 Fax: (804)864-7088
Email: employment@vdh.virginia.gov Mail: Address: VA Dept. of Health Human Resources
109 Governor Street, Suite 1114, Richmond, VA 23219

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To identify additional internships and career related experiences contact: UWM Career Development Center, Mellencamp 128, 414-229-4486
www.uwm.edu/Dept/CDC