

What about a major in...?

Geography (B.S.)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLA COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

What is Geography?

Geography describes and explains the past, present, and future locations and spatial patterns of humans and their settlements, cultural and economic traits, and natural environment and resources. The language of maps is a distinctive language of geography, and an ability to use and interpret maps is fundamental to the study and practice of the discipline. Geography offers students an integrative perspective on the relations among social, political, economic, and physical phenomena in space and place.

The B.S. offers a solid foundation in the science of geography in either the Environmental Systems or Geographic Information Systems track.

Environmental Systems Track

The Environmental Systems track examines the natural environments and resources that sustain human life and activity. Students explore the local and global patterns of climate, soils, vegetation, and surface land form; changes over time, both naturally occurring and caused by humans, in the natural environment; and ways of analyzing and predicting both human-caused and naturally occurring environmental change.

Geographic Information Systems Track

The Geographic Information systems is concerned with all aspects of geographical information, including collection, storage, manipulation, analysis, and visualization. This track encompasses geographical information science (GIS), cartography, remote sensing, spatial analysis, and numerical modeling.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select "Undergraduate majors."

How do I declare a Geography major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon a Geography major, meet with the undergraduate adviser to complete a Major Program Plan.
3. Bring a copy of the form or plan to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn more about your new major's declaration process.

For more information:

About the Geography major:

Undergraduate Advising
423 Social Science Building
(612) 625-0133

<http://www.geog.umn.edu/advisor@socsci.umn.edu>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Social Sciences Student Community

575 Heller Hall

(612) 626-7714

<http://socsci.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program

19 Johnston Hall

(612) 625-2300

<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/mlk@class.cla.umn.edu>

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community

Learning Center

135 Johnston Hall

(612) 624-7577

www.cclc.umn.edu/

cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division

20 Nicholson

(612) 624-5522

www.honors.class.umn.edu/

honors@class.cla.umn.edu

What can I do with a major in Geography?

Skills

Geography majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Ability to produce and interpret maps
- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups
- Ability to analyze and present data

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Physical/Environmental—water/natural resources planning, environmental impact, terrain/land use planning, conservation
- Geographic Information Systems—mapping, plotting, data analysis and presentation
- Business—marketing, human resources development, sales, consulting, real estate development
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management, human rights, public policy analysis, city planning
- Education—adult education, public interest education, research, student affairs

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!