



College of Liberal Arts and Education

Geography/Geology

What Is Geography?

Modern geography is concerned with the associations on earth of physical, economic and social factors. It makes an attempt to observe, analyze and understand the spatial organization of these phenomena. The discipline deals with people and their settlements, cultural characteristics and economic activities, as well as with the natural factors of the environment such as landforms, climate, soils, vegetation, animals and minerals.

Why Study Geography at UW-Platteville?

The geography major at UW-Platteville offers the student stimulating and unique advantages:

A well-qualified faculty with a reputation for good teaching and research.

A strong advisory system—A geography major is assigned to a geography faculty member who serves as an academic counselor for the duration of the student's enrollment at UW-Platteville.

A unique area for geographical studies—The southwest Wisconsin region has a variety of natural and man-made environmental characteristics: glaciated and nonglaciated landforms, a wide range of soil and vegetation types, seasonal variety of weather, lead and zinc mining, the Mississippi River, light and heavy industry, a broad range of agricultural activities and hamlets, towns and cities.

Careers In Geography

There are a wide range of job opportunities for geography graduates. Organizations such as the United States Geological Survey, Defense Mapping Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Park Services, county and municipal governments all employ geographers. Many traditional geography majors pursue graduate studies in the field. However, a graduate with a bachelor's degree may find employment in education, government, business or industry. Many planning and cartography jobs are also open to bachelor of science or bachelor of arts graduates with the traditional geography major.

Geography/Geology

Geography/geology has acquired computer technology to enrich the teaching of courses in aerial photo interpretation, remote sensing, cartography, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The department has a Cartography/GIS laboratory in 223 Boebel with high resolution color printers,

black and white laser printers, high resolution color scanner and digitizers. This lab is used by cartography, GIS, remote sensing and aerial photo interpretation students. It is also being used by geography and geology students for various types of research projects. The department has also installed a new Meteorology laboratory in Boebel Hall for weather and climate and physical geography courses.

One of the most exciting activities of the department is the extensive field course taught annually for the last 31 years by taking a field trip to the western part of the United States. The course is designed to give students intensive study of both the cultural and physical geography of western North America, including the Native American and Hispanic cultures, the characteristics and development of the desert southwest, the evolution of mega-landscape features such as the Grand Canyon, and the meaning of cultural regions. Recent trips have gone into Mexico where students have had the opportunity to experience the Mexican culture firsthand. This trip has generated tremendous enthusiasm both among the students and the faculty. As a result there is a waiting list of those who wish to participate.

Geography/geology has well-equipped facilities in both classroom and laboratories to enable students to learn about the planet earth, its environment and habitat. Faculty are well prepared and have the reputation of being excellent teachers. Faculty offices are located near the academic classrooms and professors are always available for student consultation.

Geology

A geology minor is part of our curriculum. Geology is an integral part of the Reclamation major and of engineering.

What Do Students Do?

Students are involved with

- *Aerial photo* interpretation
- *Remote sensing* and interpretation of satellite data
- *Computer concepts* and programming
- *Computer plotters* and digitizers
- *Geographic Information Systems (GIS)* with latest software
- *Cartographic lettering*, printing and drafting through computers and printers
- *Scanners* for redrafting maps
- *Field trips* to cartographic centers such as Rand McNally in Chicago and The Defense Mapping Agency in St. Louis
- *Computer cartography* drawing maps through varied software programs

Excellent Career Opportunities

Employment opportunities in the field of cartography are good. Numerous federal and state agencies are currently hiring cartographers with baccalaureate degrees. These include the United States Geological Survey, The Bureau of the Census, The Bureau of Land Management, The Central Intelligence Agency, The Defense Mapping Agency and The EROS Space Center, Department of Natural Resources, Park Services, county and municipal governments, and Department of Transportation. In addition, a vast number of businesses such as cartography and engineering firms, as well as insurance industries, employ geography graduates. The placement of geography and geology graduates has been high, and job prospects for future graduates are excellent.

Many state and local governmental units such as state highway departments and departments of natural resources and city and regional planning agencies have large carto-

graphic staffs. In the private sector, large national corporations frequently hire cartographers. Recent UW-Platteville graduates in cartography and geotechniques are employed with The Defense Mapping Agency, The Bureau of Land Management, Rockford Map Company and Aerometrics Corporation.

For More Information

For more information, write to the Department of Social Sciences, Geography/Geology, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1791.

<http://vms.www.uwplatt.edu~geography/>

For general information on the university and its programs, consult the website at www.uwplatt.edu or contact UWP Prospective Student Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099, or call toll-free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1068.

Suggested Course of Study

First Year

First Semester

Geog 1140	Geomorphology	4
Geog 1330	World Geography	3
Engl 1130	Freshman Composition	3
	SS Elective	3
	Physical Education	1
		14

Second Semester

Geog 1230	Cultural Geography	3
Geog 1240	Weather and Climate	4
Engl 1230	Freshman Composition	3
Math 2430	Elementary Statistics	3
	Physical Education	1
		14

Second Year

First Semester

Geog 3130	U.S. and Canada	3
Geog 2230	Cartography	3
Geol 1140	Physical Geology	4
	Foreign Language elective	4
	Elective	3
		17

Second Semester

Geog 3230	Geographic Info. Systems	3
Geog 3030	Economic Geography	3
	Foreign Language elective	4
His	History elective	3
	Electives	4-6
		17-19

Third Year

First Semester

Geog 3330	Environmental Conservation	3
Geog 3720	Remote Sensing	3
Geog 3630	Geog. of Latin America	2-3
	Electives	5-6
		13-15

Second Semester

Geog 4130	Space, Place and Gender	3
Soc	Sociology elective	3
	Electives	9-11
		15-17

Fourth Year

First Semester

Geog 4030	Seminar in Geographical Development and Meth.	3
Geog 3520	Air Photo Interpretation	3
Geog 3730	Geog. of Europe	2-3
	Electives	7-10
		15-19

Second Semester

Geog 4120	Topical Seminar	2
	Electives	14-16
		16-18

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