

# Geography



Students can earn the B.S. or B.A. degree with emphasis in geography by selecting electives from GIS and mapping science, natural environmental systems, urban-economic systems, or area studies, or by sampling from across our entire curriculum.

## Much More than Maps!

Yes, we study maps, but there is far more to Geography than that! Geography answers such questions as “Where are we?” and “What kind of place is this?” as well as “How do people interact with their environments?” and “How are people, goods, and ideas transported from one place to another?” It explores the geographic conditions that influence everything from a region’s economy to its social development.

## Student Experiences

With a Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, a Geography Club, and a Soil Judging Team, the fun never ends! We are also home to an Advanced Geospatial Lab, Biogeography Lab, Cartography Lab and a Soil Analysis Lab.

## Get Real

Research and internship opportunities provide the “real world” experience that will give you a distinct advantage in the work place. Our students have interned as business analysts, ecologists, GIS technicians, planning officers, soil analysts, transportation planners, weather forecasters, and zoo keepers. They have held research positions with NOAA and the National Weather Service, helped build the NIU Campus WebMap and Huskie Bus Tracking System, conducted morphometric analysis of Martian valley networks, and built models of traffic flow for urban areas. Our graduates work for the U.S. Geological Survey, the NOAA Climate Service, and the National Weather Service. They are property analysts, city and urban planners, land use specialists, and forest and soil ecologists.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Department of Geographic  
and Atmospheric Sciences**

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

# Degree Requirements

Geography is the study of place and location, why things are where they are, and how a location's characteristics affect natural processes, the environment, and human activities. It explores how we interact with, alter, and manage the physical environment. To our ancestors, simple questions like, "Is there familiar foodstuff over the next hill?" or "Which trail will take me to the trading post?" were often matters of survival. Though the questions we face today are more complex, Geography is a practical science that not only helps us understand our world, but adapt to and thrive in it.

Department of Geographic and  
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Davis Hall, room 118  
Northern Illinois University

[www.niu.edu/geog](http://www.niu.edu/geog)



## Major Requirements (46 hrs.)

### Requirements in Department (36)

- GEOG 101 Survey of Physical Geography
- GEOG 102 Survey of Physical Geography Lab
- GEOG 105 Weather, Climate and You
- GEOG 106 Weather, Climate and You Lab
- GEOG 202 World Regional Geography
- GEOG 204 Geography of Economic Activities
- GEOG 256 Maps and Mapping
- GEOG 300 Proseminar
- GEOG 359 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- GEOG 361 Geographic Measurement and Quantitative Analysis

*Electives chosen from one of the following four course groupings or any combination.*

## Who Studies Geography?

**Roddy Doyle**, author

**Heinrich Harrer**, Austrian explorer, geographer and author of *Seven Years in Tibet*

**Immanuel Kant**, 18th century geographer and philosopher of science

**Michael Palin**, British comedian, Monty Python member and amateur geographer

**Prince William**, the Duke of Cambridge

**Michael Jordan**, former NBA star

**Anita Roddick**, Ethical trade champion and founder, *The Body Shop*

**Mother Teresa**, Catholic nun, missionary, and Nobel Prize winner

### Electives chosen from one of the following four course groupings or any combination for 12 semester hours.

Area Studies  
Geographic Information Systems  
Natural Environmental Systems  
Urban/Economic Geography  
Requirements outside Department (B.A., 7-20; B.S., 10-15)

For the B.A. degree

MATH 210 Finite Mathematics\*

**OR**

MATH 211 Calculus for Business and Social Science\*

**OR**

MATH 229 Calculus I\*

STAT 200 Elementary Statistics Credits: 4

*\*Available for general education credit.*

*Fulfillment of foreign language requirement (0-12) (See "Foreign Language Requirement for the B.A. Degree" in the Other Graduation Requirements section of the NIU undergraduate catalog.)*

### For the B.S. degree

See "College Requirements for the B.S. Degree" in the Other Graduation Requirements section of this catalog. Students should consult the undergraduate adviser for the appropriate sequence for their course of study.

### Total Hours for a Major in Geography:

43-56 (B.A.) OR 46-51 (B.S.)

## Careers In Geography

Graduates with degrees in Geography can work for:

**Federal agencies**, such as the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA, the CIA, the Department of State or the military

### Companies in the transportation, utility, real estate or marketing sectors

State agencies dealing with agriculture, natural resources, and planning and development

**Regional and local government**, particularly in city and county planning

### Educational institutions

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for geographers is expected to grow 35% through 2020, much faster than other occupations.



Northern Illinois  
University