

GEOGRAPHY

CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAPPING & GEOSPATIAL
TECHNOLOGY

CULTURAL &
REGIONAL STUDIES

SOILS, LANDSCAPES
& ENVIRONMENT

Geographers explore the relationships and interactions between people and our environment using a diverse suite of field, laboratory and computer-based research tools and techniques to solve real-world problems. The Department of Geography offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates, with a full range of teaching and research opportunities on- and off-campus.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Geography, BS
- Geography: Professional, BS
- Geography minor
- Geographic Information Science (GIS) Certificate
- Geography, MS
- Geographic Information Science (GIS) Graduate Certificate

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES

- Research opportunities
- Field studies
- Study abroad/away
- EARTH Systems Lab
- Weather Lab
- GIS/Cartography Labs
- RANGE Club

SKILLS AND TALENTS

- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Computer skills
- Critical thinking
- Coding/programming
- Enjoy traveling
- Notice patterns
- Problem solving
- Research skills
- Spatial reasoning

EMPLOYERS

- Conservation/visitor bureaus
- Federal, state, and local government
- Forestry, mining and engineering
- Architectural and surveying firms
- Manufacturing and retail firms
- Scientific and research groups
- State and national parks
- Utility companies
- Military
- GIS companies
- Agriculture (USDA, extension offices, industry)
- NGOs/Non-profit

CAREERS

- Agriculture analyst/specialist
- Business/retail sales analyst
- Cartographer
- City/regional planner
- Community health specialist
- Community organizer
- Conservationist
- Demographer
- Educator
- Environmental consultant/regulator
- Forestry/range technician
- Geospatial intelligence analyst
- GIS technician/analyst/programmer
- Hydrologist
- Land management planner
- Meteorologist/climatologist
- Natural resource manager/specialist
- Naturalist/outdoor guide
- Soil scientist/conservationist
- Transportation/utility planner
- Travel/tourism planner



REASONS TO MAJOR IN GEOGRAPHY AT MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

- Geography is one of the fastest growing and highest paying fields.
- Students get hands-on experience working with cutting edge technologies such as drones, advanced GPS units, surveying equipment, soil probes, ground penetrating radar, the latest GIS and remote sensing tools and software, community-based research, and more.
- We have in-house opportunities for our majors, including laboratory and field assistants, tutors, preceptors, GIS assistants, and department assistants.
- Geography is a diverse field – climate change, natural resource management, population and migration patterns, arid region geomorphology, soils, water resources, geomorphology, environmental change, natural hazards, agriculture, GIS and remote sensing applications, and development.
- We offer multiple study abroad and field courses including in the desert southwest, Black Hills, Colorado, Iceland, India, Puerto Rico, and throughout Minnesota.
- Faculty members conduct research around the world and often take students with them to places such as Kansas, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Jamaica, and all over Minnesota.
- Geographers have fun – movie nights, geocaching, canoe trips, field trips, professional networking activities, an annual cookout and community service events like food drives, Earth Day, GIS Day, and litter pick-ups
- You will be better equipped to deal with the challenges of the future - Geography influences nearly every aspect of our lives, from where we go to what we buy.

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR CURRICULUM (GEOGRAPHY, BS)

First Year (Fall) GEOG 101 Introductory Physical Geography (3) GEOG 103 Introductory to Cultural Geography (3) ENG 101 Composition (4) FYEX 100 First Year Experience (1) General Education, Goal Area 6 (3) General Education, Goal Area 11 (1)	First Year (Spring) GEOG 340 United States (3) General Education, Goal Area 1B (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 3-Lab (4-5) General Education, Goal Area 4 (4) General Education, Goal Area 11 (1)
Second Year (Fall) GEOG 373 Introduction to GIS (4) General Education, Goal Area 6 (3) General Education, Goal Area 7 (3) General Education, Goal Area 9 (3) Upper Level Elective (3-4)	Second Year (Spring) GEOG XXX Cultural-Systemic Course (3) GEOG XXX Physical Course (3-4) General Education, Goal Area 5 (3-4) Upper Level Electives (6+)
Third Year (Fall) GEOG XXX Foreign Regional Course (3) GEOG 401 Colloquium (1) GEOG Upper Level Elective (3-4) GEOG Upper Level Elective (3-4) Upper Level Electives (5)	Third Year (Spring) GEOG 4XX Capstone (3) Upper Level Electives (12)
Fourth Year (Fall) Upper Level Electives (15)	Fourth Year (Spring) Upper Level Electives (15)