DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the Earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another and change over time, and how people interact with the environment. Geography is organized into four primary branches: human geography, physical geography, human-environment interaction, and geospatial methods. Human geography is concerned with the spatial aspects of politics, economics, and culture. Physical geographers study patterns of climates, land forms, vegetation, soils, and water. Human-environment geographers investigate the connections between the two, such as energy, water, and food systems, or the impacts of natural hazards on society. Geospatial methods are important tools for understanding our complex world, which include spatial analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and mapping platforms such as Google Earth.

To prepare students for many rewarding and important career opportunities, the Department of Geography, in the College of Science, offers a B.S. in Geography, Geographic information systems certificate, Climate change certificate, and a minor in Geography.

Students benefit from close contact with their instructors and hands-on experience within their course work and through internships with industries and agencies involved in geographic and cartographic applications.

Graduate Programs

M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in geography are offered. Geography graduate programs provide training in research methods and applications of theory and spatial modeling to problems in regional development, cartography, and the physical environment. Students learn problem definition, research design, and data analysis using a variety of techniques including GIS, remote sensing, spatial analysis, and computer assisted cartography. Students without an undergraduate degree in geography are usually required to complete some undergraduate courses in the department to provide adequate background.

Undergraduate Geospatial Information Systems Certificate

The GIS certificate is designed to serve students to enhance their educational foundation in geographical information systems (GIS) or to strengthen your GIS credentials is available through the GIS Certificate in the Department of Geography. GIS is the computer technology that uses digital information about earth surface features and location patterns to produce useful maps and analytical solutions to complex problems in physical, environmental, social, and economic sciences. Applications of GIS have expanded continuously during the past decade and GIS software has become very powerful, enabling complex problem solving in a wide variety of public and private sector settings worldwide.

A certificate program in geographic information systems is available in addition to our degree programs. Requirements for this program are listed in the website www.uidaho.edu/sci/geography.

Undergraduate Climate Change Certificate

There is a need for personnel who have a working knowledge of the science of climate change, its potential impacts, and adaptation and mitigation strategies to build climate resilient societies and landscapes.

Careers include scientists quantifying impacts, mitigation, and adaptation and practitioners and managers minimizing effects in natural and human systems.

A certificate program in Climate Change is available in addition to our degree programs. Requirements for this program are listed in the website www.uidaho.edu/sci/geography.

Career Opportunities

Geography and GIS applications continue to be one of the fast-growing job markets world-wide. Most jobs today involve the use and adaptation of geographic information systems in both the public and private sectors. Geographers also work in industry using their skills in research, locational analysis, site selection, mapping, and management of geographical information, with the aid of computers. Industrial jobs for geographers range from research, planning, and data management in primary resources to deciding where to locate a new supermarket or shopping mall. Many jobs for geographers involve computer mapping or GIS. Cartographers from our program are employed in a variety of positions working with map design, graphics, and production cartography, international employment with government agencies and NGOs, are increasing opportunities for geographers with the area studies and global systems option. Geographers are also employed in the public and private sector for jobs, which involve monitoring of air and water quality, management of natural resources and other environmental, and land management issues. The department arranges student internships with industries and agencies to provide on-the-job training and maintains a close relationship with the UI Career Services Center to aid students in their search for employment.

Faculty members in the Geography department emphasize quantitative methods and rigorous problem formulation; and in addition, critical approaches and qualitative methods are employed. Geography faculty will answer questions about specific programs and courses. Prospective majors in Geography should contact the department office (phone 208-885-6216), or visit the department’s website, www.uidaho.edu/sci/geography.

Majors

- Geography (B.S.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/science/geography/geography-bs)

Certificates

- Climate Change Undergraduate Academic Certificate (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/science/geography/climate-change-undergraduate-academic-certificate)

Geography Graduate Program

Candidates must fulfill the requirements of the College of Graduate Studies and of the Department of Geography for all degree programs. See the College of Graduate Studies (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/
Department of Geography

colleges-related-units/graduate-studies) section for the general requirements applicable to each degree. Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (aptitude section) are required for admission to all programs. Examples of the specialty areas in which the department can provide suitable depth and mentoring for graduate study include: Geographic Information Science, spatial analysis and modeling, remote sensing, polar atmospheres, glaciology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, global environmental change, business geography, rural and regional development, transportation systems.

- Geography (M.S.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/science/geography/geography-ms)
- Geography (Ph.D.) (https://catalog.uidaho.edu/colleges-related-units/science/geography/geography-phd)