

## Geography

Geography is an integrative discipline that bridges the natural and social sciences. Its distinctiveness is as much a product of its unique approach to the study of the earth and its human inhabitants as it is the subject matter itself. Thus, geography employs a spatial framework for organizational purposes analogous to the chronological framework employed in history.

Central to geographic inquiry is a concern with the human occupancy of the earth, the character of the human environment, and the interrelationships that link humans and the physical world. In sum, geography seeks to provide a broad understanding of the world, its people, and its problems and to provide applied specializations and technical skills that can address economic, social, and environmental problems at scales that range from local to global.

Not surprisingly, the subject matter of geography is diverse. Geographers examine and analyze patterns of rural and urban settlement, resource exploitation, land use, social and cultural phenomena. They are concerned with the natural features and processes of the earth's surface, the ways in which nature has conditioned the human occupancy of the earth, and the ways in which people have modified natural landscapes.

The department's instructional programs are designed to address several objectives. First, for the larger number of our students, we provide a greater understanding of the world as an element of a liberal education. Second, we conduct programs for majors and minors in geography that assure a depth of knowledge in subject matter and technique. Third, we serve those students in related disciplines who wish to strengthen programs of study through a selection of courses in geography.

## Faculty and Facilities

Instruction at introductory, advanced, and graduate levels is conducted by a faculty whose teaching and research interests are diverse. All major facets of the discipline are represented as are a number of specializations.

A variety of facilities is available for student use. Well-equipped laboratories are maintained for the conduct of research and instruction in physical geography and the technique fields — Geographic Information Systems (GIS), cartography, air photo interpretation and remote sensing, meteorological instrumentation, and quantitative analysis. The department also operates a weather station.

The department has a computer laboratory for mapping, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and a variety of other applications. The department is also well-equipped for fieldwork.

## Career Opportunities

Geographers are employed in government and the private sector. Their knowledge and skills have applications in a variety of fields including teaching, planning, cartography, GIS, locational analysis, intelligence and security, land and resource management, policy research, transportation, and industrial development.

Agencies of federal, state, and local governments are major employers of geographers. At the federal level many agencies employ geographers. At state and local levels most geographers are involved in planning, land and resource management, and community development. Because many businesses and

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### B.A. in Geography

### M.A. in Geography\*

### Minor in Geography

### Minor in Urban Studies

### Subject Matter Preparation for Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Sciences

industries have important geographical dimensions to their operations, there is demand for geographers in the private sector. Geographers are employed in banking, transportation, international trade, utilities, wholesaling and retailing, and a number of other fields. Finally, teaching is a major occupation for individuals with training in geography. The department welcomes inquiries about career opportunities.

\*As of fall 1998, admission to the M.A. in Geography has been suspended. Suspension is not expected to exceed three years.

