

Geographical Sciences

2181M LeFrak Hall
301.405.4073

<http://www.geog.umd.edu/>
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Key Features of a Geographical Sciences Major

- Geographical Sciences is a discipline whose content is broad since all aspects of the Earth's systems (human and physical) are within its scope. Geographical Sciences is the study of people, places, and environments and seeks to integrate the human and the physical components of a system or place using a spatial approach. At the University of Maryland there are three concentrations and four tracks with this diverse major.
- Learn to understand space and location, interpreting how people live in particular places, the relationships between places, the complexities of environments, and the human use of environments.
- Analyze and problem-solve some of the most serious problems facing human kind such as environmental degradation, unequal distribution of resources, global warming, and international conflicts.
- At UMCP, all undergraduates receive training in the three main fields of geography; human geography, physical geography and technical geography, such as computer cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), field methods and quantitative techniques.
- The Department of Geographical Sciences at the University of Maryland is internationally known for developing and applying the newest geographic technology such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing. This program also has ties to organizations such as NASA, NOAA, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission.

Career Options and Salaries with a Geographical Sciences Major

Geographers will work advising government, real estate developers, utilities, and telecommunications firms on where to build new roads, buildings, power plants, and cable lines. Geographers also advise on environmental matters such as where to build landfills or to preserve wetland habitats. Geographers with a background in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) will find numerous job opportunities applying GIS technology in non-traditional areas, such as emergency assistance, where GIS can track locations of ambulances, police, and fire rescue units and their proximity to the emergency. Median Annual Earnings for Geographers in 2015 was \$74,260 per year. <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/mobile/geographers.htm>

Salaries for Geographic Sciences majors vary as widely as their career possibilities:

Geographers	\$74,260
GIS specialists(cartographers, etc.)	\$61,880
Post-Secondary Teachers	\$72,470
Surveying and Mapping Technicians	\$42,010

*All salaries listed are **median** salaries.

**Salary information taken from *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015 ed.* (<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>)

Advising

If you are considering a major in Geographical Sciences, you can easily meet with an advisor to answer any questions you may have.

- There are daily walk-in advising hours in 2181M LeFrak Hall (schedule available at <http://geog.umd.edu/content/hours-and-contact>)
- To contact an advisor by phone call (301) 405-4073
- To contact an advisor by email: goeg-advise@umd.edu

Declaring a Geography Major

- ***Geography is not a Limited Enrollment Program. If you have decided to major in this field, you can declare immediately!***

When you declare that you will major in Geography, you are also declaring that you will be a student in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), which houses the Department of Geographical Sciences. There are two levels in your process of declaring and later advising, the department (Geographical Sciences) and the College (Behavioral and Social Sciences). The College will advise you regarding your CORE/GenEd requirements and the Department will advise you regarding your major requirements.

- 1) Review the Department of Geographical Science's website, focusing on the information for undergraduates: <http://geog.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>
- 2) Attend walk-in advising hours to talk further about your interest (See contact information above). The advisor will review the requirements for the major and explain your new academic department to you.
- 3) Register on-line for an academic planning workshop with BSOS Advising at www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu. Workshops are held several times a semester.
- 4) After the workshop, complete an academic plan and submit it to BSOS Advising for review.
- 5) Wait to hear from BSOS advising by email. They will contact you if you need to amend your academic plan or to notify you that you have been officially added as a Geographical Sciences Major to the college of BSOS. This can take as little as a few days or as long as three weeks. Declaring at the end of the semester will take longer than declaring at the beginning or middle of a semester.

Four Year Plan- GenEd

First Year:

GEOG 201	3
GEOG 211	1
ENGL 101 (AW)	3
MATH (pending placement)	3
Humanities	3
<u>UNIV 100</u>	<u>1</u>
	14 credits

Oral Communication OC	3
Humanities HU	3
GEOG 202 (HS and CC)	3
Math 220/140/130	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>1</u>
	16 credits

Second Year:

Natural Science NS	3
History/Social Science HS	3
GEOG Physical Gateway	3
GEOG Human Gateway	3
GEOG 212	1
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

GEOG 306 (AR)	3
GEOG Elective 1	3
Supporting Sequence 2	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Third Year:

ENGL 39x (PW)	3
GEOG Technique Gateway	3
Supporting Sequence 3	3
Supporting Sequence 3	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Scholarship in Practice SP	3
Understanding Plural Soc.	3
GEOG Elective 2	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

GEOG Elective 3	3
GEOG Elective 4 (400 level)	3
Supporting Sequence 4	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

GEOG Elective 5 (400 level)	3
Supporting Sequence 5	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>2</u>
	14 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

- All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for the I-Series requirement. (I-series are not listed separately in this plan.)
- Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category. GEOG 202 will count for the Cultural Competence requirement.

Four Year Plan-CORE

First Year:

GEOG 201	3
GEOG 211	1
ENGL 101 (AW)	3
MATH 113	3
CORE HA	3
<u>UNIV 100</u>	<u>1</u>
	14 credits

GEOG Human Gateway	3
CORE HL	3
CORE SB	3
MATH 220	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

Second Year:

GEOG Physical Gateway	3
Systematic Course 1	3
CORE SH	3
CORE PS/LS	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

GEOG 202	3
Supporting Course 1	3
CORE D	3
CORE HL/HA/HO/IE	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Third Year:

GEOG 212	1
GEOG 306	3
Supporting Course 2	3
Systematic Course 2	3
Elective	2
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Supporting Course 3	3
Supporting Course 4	3
Advanced Studies CORE 1	3
Professional Writing	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

GEOG Technique	3
Systematic Course 3	3
Advanced Studies CORE 2	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Systematic Course 4: 4XX	3
Systematic Course 5: 4XX	3
Supporting Course 5	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

TOTAL = 120 credits

Q & A

Can I minor in Geographical Sciences?

Yes, Geographical Sciences offers a minor in Geography Information Science

<http://geog.umd.edu/content/minors>

Are there specializations I can choose from within the Geographical Sciences major?

Yes, there are several. In the broader sense, you can major in either Geography or Geographic Information Science (GIS). Within the Geography major you will focus your studies on human-environmental interactions and choose a specialty such as biogeography or urban geography. The GIS major “emphasized the applications of geographic technology, such as remote sensing.” In addition to these the Department offers several tracks within the major including Society and Sustainability, Cultural Geography, Political Ecology, Earth Systems, and Environmental Monitoring and Analysis.

The Department of Geographical Sciences also partners with the Environmental Science and Policy (ENSP) program. This multidisciplinary program sponsors three concentrations: Land Use, Marine and Coastal Management, and Global Environmental Change.

If you are interested in teaching there is now a joint program between the Department of Geography and the College of Education that allows Education majors to specialize in Geography. Please visit the following website for more information: <http://geog.umd.edu/content/secondary-educationgeography-double-major-program>.

You should consult the department website and a Geographical Sciences Advisor to get more information on any of these areas.