# GEOGRAPHY

## What can I do with this degree?

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### EMPLOYERS

- **Environmental Management**
  - Federal and state government
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Departments of Agriculture
  - National Forest Service
  - Real estate developers
  - Scientific and research groups
  - Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering, environmental issues, waste management, architecture, or surveying.
  - Law firms

- **Cultural Resources**
  - State, regional, and local government
  - Federal government including:
    - Central Intelligence Agency
    - Defense Mapping Agency
    - Bureau of Census
    - Department of State
    - National Park Service
    - Peace Corps
    - Real estate developers
    - Companies dealing with insurance, transportation, communications, and international trade
    - Scientific and research groups
    - Museums

- **Cultural Resources**
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### STRATEGIES

#### Environmental geographers are concerned with how human beings use the earth. They focus on human impact on the environment.

- Learn federal government job application process.
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Courses in biology and chemistry are a must.
- Take elective courses in botany, plant science, and wildlife.
- For a career in law, you must earn a graduate degree in law.

#### Cultural and human geographers study the aspects of geography that relate to different cultures. They especially focus on cultural origins and movement and the cultural characteristics of regions.

- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process.
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Develop excellent communication and teamwork skills in order to work with historians and archivists in recreating the geography of the past.
- Learn how to conduct library research, make field observations, and interpret artifacts.
- Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.

#### Economic geographers study the distribution of resources and economic activities within a certain region. They may use this information to advise organizations on where to build new facilities.

- Obtain business knowledge through coursework or related work experience.
- Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.
### AREAS

**GEOTECHNIQUES**
- Cartography
- Geographic Information Systems
- Remote Sensing

**SOCIAL AND URBAN**
- City/Regional Planning
- Housing Development
- Convention/Tourism
- Community Development
- Demography
- Transportation

**GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**
- Teaching
- Research

### EMPLOYERS

**GEOTECHNIQUES**
- Federal government agencies
  - Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State
  - Defense Mapping
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
  - Central Intelligence Agency
- State and regional government agencies
  - Departments of Transportation or Agriculture
- Private industry including utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms
- Map publishers
- Colleges and universities

**SOCIAL AND URBAN**
- City, county, and regional planning agencies
- State government
- Federal government agencies including:
  - Agency for International Development
  - World Bank
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Research organizations
- Private business
- Banks
- Industrial firms
- Public utilities
- Real estate developers

**GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**
- Elementary/secondary schools, public and private
- Colleges and universities

### STRATEGIES

**GEOTECHNIQUES**
- Become skilled in related computer technology.
- Learn photography skills.
- Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, and graphics.
- Seek work-related experience such as internships, and summer or part-time jobs.
- Learn federal, state and local government job application process since most of these positions are in government agencies.
- Develop excellent communication skills.

**SOCIAL AND URBAN**
- Planners ensure that communities develop in an orderly way and that they have the services necessary to support them.
- Develop teamwork skills.
- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Local government is a large employer in this area.
- Maintain excellent academic undergraduate record.
- Obtain master's degree in planning.
- Take courses in public administration or public finance.

**GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION**
- Obtain certification/licensure for public school teaching.
- Join National Council for Geographic Education and/or the Association of American Geographers.
- Complete a master's degree for community college teaching or a Ph.D. for college/university teaching and research.
- Specialize in an area such as quantitative research techniques, computer mapping, or natural resource management.
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bachelor’s degree qualifies you for entry-level positions in government and industry.
- Master's degree qualifies you for community college teaching and advancement in industry and government.
- Ph.D. is required for research and teaching positions in colleges and universities and senior positions in government and industry.
- Geography provides a broad foundation for future career endeavors.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, internship, or co-op experience in your area of interest.
- Join professional organizations such as the American Geography Society or the National Council for Geographic Education.
- Become a member of groups directed toward improvement of natural resources or environment and pollution control.
- Computer knowledge is becoming extremely important in geography. Obtain experience with geographic information systems and computer-aided drafting (CAD).
- Develop strong mathematical and statistical skills.
- Develop skills and interest in mapping, graphics, and charts. An interest in photography may prove beneficial.
- Develop good communication skills.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (1995, Revised 2003)
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