# GEOGRAPHY

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

**ENVIROMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**
- Environmental Management
- Conservation
- Waste Management
- Environmental Regulation
- Emergency Management
- Outdoor Recreation Management

**CULTURAL & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**
- Cultural Resources
- Historic Preservation
- Historical Consultation
- Education
- Research

**ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY**
- Location Scouting
- Real Estate Analysis
- Transportation
- Agricultural Planning
- Travel/Tourism Planning

### EMPLOYERS

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**
- 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 & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**
- 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

**ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY**
- Federal, state, and local government
  - Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms
  - Public utilities
  - Consulting firms
  - Real estate developers
  - Banks

### STRATEGIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY**

- 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 & HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

- 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.
- A good foreign language background is necessary for field observations in other countries.
- Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.

**ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY**

- 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 though coursework or related work experience.
- Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental.
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GEOTECHNIQUES</strong></td>
<td>Federal government agencies</td>
<td>Become skilled in related computer technology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartography</td>
<td>Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State</td>
<td>Learn photography skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>Defense Mapping</td>
<td>Take courses in surveying and measurements, photogrammetry, technical mathematics, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing, art, and graphics.</td>
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<td>Remote Sensing</td>
<td>National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
<td>Seek work-related experience such as internships, and summer or part-time jobs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Central Intelligence Agency</td>
<td>Learn federal, state and local government job application process since most of these positions are in governmental agencies.</td>
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<td>State and regional government agencies</td>
<td>Develop excellent communication skills.</td>
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<td>Departments of Transportation or Agriculture</td>
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<td>Private industry including utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms</td>
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<td>Map publishers</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL AND URBAN</strong></td>
<td>City, county, and regional planning agencies</td>
<td>Planners ensure that communities develop in an orderly way and that they have the services necessary to support them.</td>
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<td>City/Regional Planning</td>
<td>State government</td>
<td>Develop team work skills.</td>
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<td>Housing Development</td>
<td>Federal government agencies including:</td>
<td>Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Local government is a large employer in this area.</td>
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<td>Convention/Tourism</td>
<td>Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Maintain excellent academic undergraduate record.</td>
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<td>Community Development</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Obtain master's degree in planning.</td>
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<td>Demography</td>
<td>Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>Take courses in public administration or public finance.</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Research organizations</td>
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<td>Private business</td>
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<td>Banks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Industrial firms</td>
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<td>Public utilities</td>
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<td>Real estate developers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Elementary/secondary schools, public and private</td>
<td>Obtain certification/licensure for public school teaching.</td>
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<td>Teaching</td>
<td>colleges and universities</td>
<td>Join National Council for Geographic Education and/or the Association of American Geographers.</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Complete a master's degree for community college teaching or a Ph.D. for college/university teaching and research.</td>
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<td>Specialize in an area such as quantitative research techniques, computer mapping, or natural resource management.</td>
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### AREAS

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**
- Biogeography
- Natural Hazards
- Hydrology
- Weather and Climate
- Geomorphology

### EMPLOYERS

- State and local government
- Federal government agencies including:
  - US Geological Survey
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - Forest Service
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - The National Resources Conservation Service
- TV/Radio stations
- Agribusiness corporations
- Outdoor recreation companies
- Resource management agencies
- Research institutes
- Insurance companies

### STRATEGIES

Physical geographers study earth processes such as climate and weather. They also look at the impact of natural hazards such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes.

- Take courses in physics and chemistry.
- Develop excellent communication skills.
- Be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability.

### 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)