# GEOGRAPHY

## What can I do with this degree?

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<th>AREAS</th>
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| **ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY** | Environmental Management  
Conservation  
Waste Management  
Environmental Regulation  
Emergency Management  
Outdoor Recreation 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 | 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 Resources  
Historic Preservation  
Historical Consultation  
Education  
Research | 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 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** | Location Scouting  
Real Estate Analysis  
Transportation  
Agricultural Planning  
Travel/Tourism Planning | Federal, state, and local government  
Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms  
Public utilities  
Consulting firms  
Real estate developers  
Banks | 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. |
### 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 governement 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 team work 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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