

B.A. in Geography: Geography Major

Huxley College of the Environment

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What is the study of Geography?

This interdisciplinary program prepares students to enter professional fields concerned with the spatial aspects of the human and natural environment. The two tracks, Environmental and Resource Management and Human and International Studies prepare students for a future of working with resources and

the environment locally, nationally and internationally. A minor in Geographic Information Systems, Geology or an additional language are commonly completed by Geography students.

Graduates of this major have assumed positions in State and National Parks, Forest Service,

Non-profit Organizations, and GIS positions for public and private agencies. Western also offers a Masters in Science in Geography. If you are interested in teaching Geography in public schools, see the B.A.Ed. Geography/Social Studies information sheet.

Why should I consider a Geography Major?

Are you curious about the world, and its physical and human dimensions? Do you

love maps? Are you comfortable with spatial problem solving? If so, then

Geography is the major for you.

Declaring a Geography Major:

Pre-Major Declaration: Any student may declare an Environmental Studies (including Geography) pre-major. The forms are available at the Huxley College office in ES 539.

Major Declaration: Once you

have completed or are in the process of completing all of the required preparatory courses, apply to Huxley College. Applications are available online from the Huxley College website or in the Huxley College office in ES 539. Application due dates

are May 2nd for Fall Quarter, October 20th for Winter Quarter, and January 28th for Spring Quarter. The application also requires a brief essay and a list of relevant experience.

Mid Program Checkpoint:

Students intending to complete a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Geography within four years should complete the following courses by the start of their junior year. Students are expected to follow all prerequisite requirements for courses and seek early departmental advisement.

Coursework:

Complete Huxley preparatory coursework:

CHEM 115 or 121

BIOL 101

an additional lab science in BIOL, CHEM, GEOL or PHYS

MATH 114 or 156

EGEO 203

ECON 206

PLSC course

BCOM course

Introductory Statistics Course

Other Activities:

Get involved in environmental issues and groups. Volunteer for environmental organizations.

Contact Information:

www.wvu.edu/cms/wvu.edu/

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Sample Career Fields:

- Cartographer
- Resource Manager
- GIS Database Manager
- Water Resource Manager
- Park Ranger
- Forest Service Employee
- College or University Instructor

Geography Major Requirements: 85 Credits

Required Preparatory Courses:

CHEM 115 or 121 General Chemistry (5)

BIOL 101 Introduction to Biology (5)

Additional Lab Science in Chemistry, Biology, Geology or Physics (5)

MATH 114 Precalculus or MATH 156 Algebra with Applications to Business and Economics (4-5)

Introductory Statistics Course (e.g. SOC 207, MATH 240, DSCI 205, ANTH 335) (4-5)

EGEO 203 Physical Geography or GEOL 211 Physical Geology (4)

Economics: Preferably ECON 206 Microeconomics (4)

Political Science: Any PLSC course (3-5)

Communication Block B: Any BCOM requirement (3-5)

Huxley Core Requirements: 21-24 credits

*ESTU 306 Introduction to Huxley College (1) *Cancelled Requirement

Ecological Processes: One of the following (3-4 credits)

ESCI 302 Environmental Pollution (4)

ESCI 325 Fundamentals of Ecology (3)

ESCI 310 Environmental Systems (4)

Applied Environmental Science: One of the following (3-4 credits)

ESCI 321 Oceanography (4)

ESCI 330 Natural History of Pacific Northwest (4)

ESCI 333 Introduction to Environmental Toxicology (4)

ESCI 361a Water Quality (3)

ESCI 463 Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment (3)

Approved Capstone Course: 4-5 credits

(List available in the Huxley College Office)

One from Environmental Applications Experience: (10 credit minimum)

ESTU 498a Senior Thesis (10-15)

ESTU 498b Internship (10-15)

ESTU 498c Senior Project (10-15)

ESTU 498d International Study (10-15)

Geography Core (24 credits)

EGEO 201 Human Geography (4)

EGEO 203 Physical Geography (4)

EGEO 301 Research and Writing (3)

EGEO 305 Analysis of Spatial Data (4)

EGEO 351 Map Reading and Analysis (3)

EGEO 352 Computer Cartography (2)

One Upper-division GIS course (from the list below or as approved by advisor)

EGEO 350 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3)

ESTU 401 Applications in GIS (3)

EGEO 450, 451, 452, or 453 Intermediate and Advanced GIS Courses (require

prerequisite work or permission)

Geography students choose one track from: *Environmental and Resource Management* or *Human and International Studies*. All students complete the Huxley College Core and Geography Core, but only one of the lists of track requirements below.

Environmental and Resource Management (21-23)

Select 5 courses from the following:

EGEO 330 Geography of Landforms (4)

EGEO 331 Climatology (4)

EGEO 362 Land Resource Analysis (3)

EGEO 363 Natural Hazards Planning (3)

EGEO 431 Water Resources (4)

EGEO 432 Geography of Soils (4)

EGEO 433 Climate and Biophysical Processes (4)

EGEO 434 Biogeography (3)

EGEO 461 Natural Resources Management (4)

ESCI 492 Effects of Global Climate Change (3)

Regional Geography Elective (3)

Select 1 of the following:

EGEO 320 Society & Environment: The United States (3)

EGEO 321 Society & Environment: Africa (3)

EGEO 322 Society & Environment: The Middle East (3)

EGEO 323 Society & Environment: South Asia (3)

EGEO 324 Society & Environment: East Asia (3)

EGEO 327 Society & Environment: The Pacific Northwest (3)

EGEO 328 Society & Environment: Canada (3)

Electives: 14-19 credits of upper division electives under faculty advisement or a number needed to equal 85 credits for the major.

Human and International Geography (26 minimum)

Select 5 courses from the following (two must be 400-level): 17-20

EGEO 310 Developing World (4)

EGEO 311 or 340 Population and Resources (3)

EGEO 312 Geography of the World Economy (4)

EGEO 314 Urbanization: Processes and Patterns (4)

EGEO 412 Regional Environmental and Economic Resource Modeling (4)

EGEO 414 The Urban Environment (4)

EGEO 421 Borderlands (4)

EGEO 423 Pacific Rim (4)

Regional Geography Elective(9)

Select 3 of the following:

EGEO 320 Society & Environment: The United States (3)

EGEO 321 Society & Environment: Africa (3)

EGEO 322 Society & Environment: The Middle East (3)

EGEO 323 Society & Environment: South Asia (3)

EGEO 324 Society & Environment: East Asia (3)

EGEO 327 Society & Environment: The Pacific Northwest (3)

EGEO 328 Society & Environment: Canada (3)

These required or elective courses will also satisfy the GUR or other Graduation Requirement:

QSR: MATH 114, or 156, 240

SSC: PLSC course, ECON 206, EGEO 201

ACGM: EGEO 321, 322, 323, 324

LSCI: BIOL 101, CHEM 115, EGEO 203,

WP: EGEO 301

Other Geography options:

B.A. in Geography/Social Studies (90-92 credits)

B.A.Ed. in Geography—Elementary (45 credits plus 107 credits for Elementary Education Certification Program)

Minor in Geography (25 credits)

Minor in Geographic Information Systems (32-34 credits)