

2009-2010

B.A. in Geography

Huxley College of the Environment

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. Geography/Social Studies or B.A.Ed. Geography/Elementary Education information sheet.

Why Should I Consider This 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.

How to Declare:

Pre-Major Declaration: Any student may declare as an Environmental Studies pre-major. The forms are available at the Huxley College Office in ES 539.

Admission to Huxley College and its majors is selective and based upon the following four criteria:

1. Completion of required preparatory course work
2. Academic performance (GPA)
3. A brief essay in response to a given question, and
4. Relevant experience.

Applications should be received by the Huxley College office by April 25 for admission to summer or fall quarters; October 6 for admission winter quarter; and January 15 for admission spring quarter.

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.

Complete Huxley preparatory coursework:

BIOL 101 or 204

CHEM 121

Additional lab science course: BIOL, CHEM, GEOL or PHYS

MATH 114 or 156

EGEO 201, 203

ECON 206

PLSC course

BCOM or CCOM course

Introductory Statistics Course

Other Activities:

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

Contact Information:

Huxley College of the
Environment Website:

<http://www.wwu.edu/huxley/>

Department Chair:

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Undergraduate Advisor:

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Sample Careers:

Cartographer

Resource Manager

GIS Database Manager

Water Resource Manager

Park Ranger

Forest Service Employee

College or University
Instructor



Geography Major Requirements: 125-131 Credits

Required Preparatory Courses:

BIOL 101 Introduction to Biology (5)

Or BIOL 204 Introduction to Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity (4)

CHEM 121 General Chemistry (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 215, MATH 240, DSCI 205, ANTH 335, FAIR 232P (4-5)

EGEO 201 Human Geography, 203 Physical Geography (4, 4)

Economics: Preferably ECON 206 Microeconomics (4)

Political Science: Any PLSC course (3-5)

Any BCOM or CCOM requirement (3-5)

Huxley Core Requirements: 20-29 credits

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

ESCI 302 Environmental Pollution (4)

ESCI 310 Environmental Systems (4)

ESCI 325 Fundamentals of Ecology (3)

ESCI 392 Introduction to Global Change (3)

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

ESCI 309 Exploring Environmental Data (3)

ESCI 321 Oceanography (4)

ESCI 330 Natural History of Pacific Northwest (4)

ESCI 333 Introduction to Environmental Toxicology (4)

ESCI 361 Water Quality (3)

ESCI 463 Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment (3)

Approved Capstone Course: 4-5 credits

(List available on the Huxley College Website)

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 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 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)

Select one course from the following:

ESCI 436, 470, 490, 490; ESTU 436, 470, 490 (4-5 credits)

Other Geography Options:

B.A. in Geography/Social Studies (88-93 credits)

B.A.Ed. in Geography—Elementary (45 credits plus 104 credits for Elementary Education Certification Program)

Minor in Geography (25 credits)

Minor in Geographic Information Systems (32-34 credits)

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 credits)

Select 5 courses from the following:

EGEO 330 Geography of Landforms (4)

EGEO 331 Climatology (4)

EGEO 332 The Soil Environment (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 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: 9-20 credits of upper division electives under faculty advisement or a number needed to equal 85 credits for the major.

International Society and Environment Requirements (26 minimum)

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

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 & Economic Resource Modeling (4)

EGEO 414 The Urban Environment (4)

EGEO 421 Borderlands (4)

EGEO 423 Pacific Rim (4)

EGEO 425 Colonial Landscapes in the Pacific Northwest (4)

Regional Geography Electives (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 The Pacific Northwest: Society and Environment (3)

EGEO 328 Canada: Society and Environment (3)

Electives: 17-22 credits of upper division electives under faculty advisement or a number needed to equal 85 credits for the major.

These courses are offered within this major and may be used to satisfy GUR or Writing Proficiency requirements.

QSR: MATH 114, or 156, 240

SSC: PLSC course, ECON 206, EGEO 201

ACGM: EGEO 321, 322, 323, 324

LSCI: BIOL 101, CHEM 121, EGEO 203,

WP: Three Writing Proficiency points are required for graduation (they are noted as WP1, WP2, and WP3). Check [Classfinder](#) or [Online Timetable](#) for departmental offerings each quarter.