

What can I do with a major in **GEOGRAPHY** from Valparaiso University?

Description of major:

The geography major is designed to expose students to the areas of human, regional, and physical geography, as well as geographic techniques. Geographers perform a wide variety of jobs in geographical areas, such as urban and regional planning, housing and community development, retail site location, environmental analysis, climatology, resource conservation, and cartography. Graduates trained in geography bring an awareness of global issues, sensitivity to cultural differences, and an understanding of how complex issues affect environmental matters.

Relevant skills for a GEOGRAPHY major:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Analyze geographic contexts of specific activities/issues ◆ Use the computer ◆ Conduct research ◆ Develop theories on how humans adapt to environmental conditions and analyze how they alter their environment ◆ Evaluate & present ideas ◆ Manage information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Make and manipulate maps to understand patterns and processes ◆ Make numerical computations ◆ Organize ◆ Use a camera ◆ Research ◆ Analyze statistics ◆ Study physical and human geography ◆ Survey and measure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Participate in a team ◆ Communicate, both orally & in writing ◆ Work on community and other collaborative projects ◆ Write material for publication, for example, scientific and general publications, reports, environmental impact statements, textbooks, grant proposals and others! |
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Sample work activities for Graduates in GEOGRAPHY (some may require an advanced degree)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airline Operations Manager • Atlas Editor • Cartographer • Census Analyst • College Professor • Communication Illustrator • Compliance Officer • Computer Mapping Technician • Consumer Surveyor • Defense Analyst • Demographer • Development Specialist • Economic Development Coordinator • Education Planner • Energy Resource Analyst • Environmental Impact Analyst • Environmental Legal Assistant • GIS Analyst | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Planner/Analyst • Import/Export Consultant • Land Use Specialist • Land Classification Analyst • Location Analyst • Map Curator • Marketing Analyst • Medical Geography • Military Analyst • Natural Resource Specialist • Outdoor Guide • Park Ranger • Peace Corps Volunteer • Property Manager • Real Estate Researcher • Real Estate Appraiser • Resource Planner • Shipping Broker • Shorelands Management Developer • Social Studies Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software Designer • State Department Country Analyst • Site Researcher • Soil Conservationist • Surveyor • Systems Analyst • Teacher • Technology Analyst • Trade Consultant • Traffic Manager • Transportation Analyst/Planner • Transportation Manager • Travel Agent/Specialist • Urban/Regional Planner • Water Quality Coordinator • and others! |
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Potential hiring institutions for GEOGRAPHY majors:

- ◆ Agricultural organizations
- ◆ Architectural firms
- ◆ Bureau of Census
- ◆ Central Intelligence Agency
- ◆ Colleges and Universities
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Consulting firms
- ◆ Defense Mapping Agency
- ◆ Departments of State, Defense & Commerce
- ◆ Elementary/secondary schools
- ◆ Engineering firms
- ◆ Federal Government:
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ International Trade Organizations
- ◆ Manufacturing firms
- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Planning agencies
- ◆ Publishers (textbooks & maps)
- ◆ Real estate developers
- ◆ Scientific and research groups
- ◆ State, regional and local government
- ◆ Surveying firms
- ◆ U.S. Geological Survey
- ◆ Utilities

Area of further education for GEOGRAPHY majors:

- Anthropology
- Archeology
- Biogeography
- Business Administration
- Cultural Geography
- Demography & Population Studies
- Ecology
- Education
- Environmental Design
- Geographic Information Systems
- Geography
- Geology
- Law
- Meteorology
- Physical Geography
- Public Administration
- Public Policy
- Rural Planning & Studies
- Rural Sociology
- Sociology
- Urban Design
- Urban Planning
- Urban Studies
- and others!

Sources of additional information for GEOGRAPHY majors:

- VU Department of Geography and Meteorology: <http://www.valpo.edu/geomet/>
- VU Majors & Areas of Study: <http://www.valpo.edu/cas/departments/geography.html>
- Occupational Outlook Handbook: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles information about various occupations, including the nature of the work, the job outlook, the earnings, and other relevant information. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco1002.htm>
- American Association for the Advancement of Science: the world's largest general science organization and publisher of the peer-reviewed journal Science. Serves as an authoritative source for information on the latest developments in science and bridges gaps among scientists, policy-makers and the public to advance science and science education. Site includes a Careers page that includes information on fellowships, internships, career fairs, and job listings. <http://www.aaas.org/>
- American Congress of Surveying and Mapping: advance the sciences of surveying and mapping and related fields. The society is made up of four member organizations, which serve as special interest groups: The American Association for Geodetic Surveying, The Cartography and Geographic Information Society, The Geographic and Land Information Society, and The National Society of Professional Surveyors, Inc.. <http://www.acsm.net/>
- American Geographical Society: the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. Includes internships. <http://www.amergeog.org/>
- American Geophysical Union: provides information for the public on what is known about Earth, its planetary neighbors, and the space around them and how the geophysical sciences are advancing. Includes a membership directory and job listings. <http://www.agu.org/>
- Association of American Geographers: a scientific and educational society that shares interests in the theory, methods, and practice of geography. Includes a Jobs section. <http://www.aag.org/>
- CYBER-SIERRA'S Natural Resources Job Search: articles and job opportunities.
- <http://www.cyber-sierra.com/nrjobs/index.html>
- Earthworks: Positions listed for various sciences as well as graduate, post-graduate & professional development courses. <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com>

- Environmental Careers Organization: a national, non-profit, educational organization that protects and enhances the environment through the development of diverse leaders, the promotion of careers, and the inspiration of individual action. This is accomplished through internships, career advice, career products, and research and consulting. <http://www.eco.org/>
- GIS Jobs Clearinghouse: Find positions in Geographic Information Systems. <http://www.gjc.org/>
- National Geographic: the online version of the popular magazine. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>
- ParkNet: The official website for the National Park Service. Includes interesting information about nature and science in the parks as well as an InfoZone with job opportunities. <http://www.nps.gov/>
- National Science Foundation: an independent U.S. government agency responsible for promoting science and engineering through programs that invest over \$3.3 billion per year in almost 20,000 research and education projects in science and engineering. Site includes a listing of scholarships and fellowships as well as a page for Students under their "Special Programs" and Vacancy announcements under their "Online Documents". <http://www.nsf.gov/>
- Science Magazine's Next Wave: the career development resource for scientists. <http://nextwave.sciencemag.org/>

VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>100 Best Nonprofits To Work For</i> • <i>Book Of U.S. Government Jobs : Where They Are, What's Available, And How To Get One</i> • <i>Career Opportunities In Politics, Government & Activism</i> • <i>Career Opportunities In Travel And Tourism</i> • <i>Careers In Sociology</i> • <i>Civil Service Career Starter</i> • <i>Directory Of Foreign Consulates And International Trade Assistance Organizations In Chicagoland</i> • <i>Directory Of Independent Consulting Engineering & Land Surveying Firms In Illinois</i> • <i>Directory Of Jobs And Careers Abroad</i> • <i>Essays That Worked For Law Schools : 35 Essays From Successful Applications To The Nation's Top Law Schools</i> • <i>Federal Personnel Guide 2005</i> • <i>Global Resume And CV Guide</i> • <i>Graduate Programs In Education</i> • <i>GRE Exam 2005</i> • <i>Great Jobs For Liberal Arts Majors</i> • <i>Guide To America's Federal Jobs : A Complete Directory Of Federal Career Opportunities</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guide To Graduate Environmental Programs</i> • <i>Guide To Homeland Security Careers</i> • <i>Guide To Undergraduate & Graduate Education In Urban And Regional Planning</i> • <i>How To Get A Job In Europe</i> • <i>Inside Secrets To Finding A Career In Travel</i> • <i>Job Surfing : Working Abroad : Using The Internet To Find A Job And Get Hired</i> • <i>LSAT 2005</i> • <i>Opportunities In Environmental Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Forestry Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Government Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Hotel And Motel Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Overseas Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Social Science Careers</i> • <i>Opportunities In Travel Careers</i> • <i>Peterson's Graduate Programs In Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work</i> • <i>Peterson's Graduate Programs In The Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences</i> • <i>Resumes For Environmental Careers</i> • <i>and others!</i> |
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For more information about majoring in GEOGRAPHY, contact:

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For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at Career.Center@valpo.edu