Students can earn the B.S. or B.A. degree with emphasis in geography by selecting electives from GIS & mapping science, natural environmental systems, urban-economic systems, or area studies, or by sampling from across our entire curriculum. We also offer the B.S. degree with emphasis in geomatics.

**Much More than Maps!**

Yes, we study maps, but there is far more to Geography than that! Undergraduates may choose from two separate emphases: Geography and Geomatics. Geography answers such questions as “Where are we?” and “What kind of place is this?” as well as “How do people interact with their environments?” and “How are people, goods, and ideas transported from one place to another?” It explores the geographic conditions that influence everything from a region’s economy to its social development.

**Student Experiences**

With a Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, a Geography Club, and a Soil Judging Team, the fun never ends! We are also home to an Advanced Geospatial Lab, Biogeography Lab, Cartography Lab, and a Soil Analysis Lab.

**Get Real**

Research and internship opportunities provide the “real world” experience that will give you a distinct advantage in the work place. Our students have interned as business analysts, ecologists, GIS technicians, planning officers, soil analysts, transportation planners, weather forecasters, and zoo keepers. They have held research positions with NOAA and the National Weather Service, helped build the NIU Campus WebMap and Huskie Bus Tracking System, conducted morphometric analysis of Martian valley networks, and built models of traffic flow for urban areas. Our graduates work for the U.S. Geological Survey, the NOAA Climate Service, and the National Weather Service. They are property analysts, city and urban planners, land use specialists, and forest and soil ecologists.

“I absolutely love the geography department. I did an undergraduate and graduate degree in the department and it has always felt like I was with friends and family. We collaborated, celebrated, and appreciated...together.”

–Ata Shakir, B.S. 2005, M.S. 2012
Degree Requirements

Geography is the study of place and location, why things are where they are, and how a location’s characteristics affect natural processes, the environment, and human activities. It explores how we interact with, alter, and manage the physical environment. To our ancestors, simple questions like, “Is there familiar foodstuff over the next hill?” or “Which trail will take me to the trading post?” were often matters of survival. Though the questions we face today are more complex, Geography is a practical science that not only helps us understand our world, but adapt to and thrive in it.

Major Requirements (46 hrs.)

Major Requirements
Requirements in Department (36)
GEOG 101 Survey of Physical Geography
GEOG 102 Survey of Physical Geography Lab
GEOG 105 Weather, Climate and You
GEOG 106 Weather, Climate and You Lab
GEOG 202 World Regional Geography
GEOG 204 Geography of Economic Activities
GEOG 256 Maps and Mapping
GEOG 300 Proseminar
GEOG 359 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 361 Geographic Measurement and Quantitative Analysis
Electives chosen from one of the following four course groupings or any combination.

Electives chosen from one of the following four course groupings or any combination for 12 semester hours.
Area Studies
Geographic Information Systems
Natural Environmental Systems
Urban/Economic Geography
Requirements outside Department (B.A., 7-20; B.S., 10-15)
For the B.A. degree
MATH 210 Finite Mathematics* or
MATH 211 Calculus for Business and Social Science*
or
MATH 229 Calculus I*
STAT 301 Elementary Statistics Credits: 4
*Available for general education credit.
Fulfillment of foreign language requirement (0-12) (See “Foreign Language Requirement for the B.A. Degree” in the Other Graduation Requirements section of the NIU undergraduate catalog.)

For the B.S. degree
See “College Requirements for the B.S. Degree” in the Other Graduation Requirements section of this catalog.
Students should consult the undergraduate adviser for the appropriate sequence for their course of study.

Total Hours for a Major in Geography:
43-56 (B.A.) OR 46-51 (B.S.)

Who Studies Geography?
Roddy Doyle, author
Heinrich Harrer, Austrian explorer, geographer and author of Seven Years in Tibet
Immanuel Kant, 18th century geographer and philosopher of science
Michael Palin, British comedian, Monty Python member and amateur geographer
Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge
Michael Jordan, former NBA star
Anita Roddick, Ethical trade champion and founder, The Body Shop
Mother Teresa, Catholic nun, missionary, and Nobel Prize winner