Geography Option

The Geography Option offers students a liberal university education with an emphasis in geography. The Geography option provides a general education as well as the more specialized knowledge and skills necessary to pursue many career objectives. Geographers find professional opportunities in urban and land use planning as well as spatial analysis in the public and private sectors, analysis of regions, resource and environmental management, as well as the application of geographical skills in map making (cartography), remote sensing, and geographic information science (GIS). Geography also offers an outstanding background for more advanced education in environmental law, international business, resource planning, and other specialized graduate school opportunities. Students may enhance their employment opportunities with a Master’s degree, or a Ph.D. if college teaching or advanced research positions are of interest.

The student, in consultation with an advisor, is given the opportunity to develop a program to meet his or her own particular interests and needs through a series of core geography courses and an emphasis in physical or human geography or an approved minor. The Geography Option introduces students to lower division course work in world regional, physical, and human geography. These courses emphasize the importance of spatial relationships, the global distributions of physical and cultural phenomena, the complex interplay between natural and human systems, and the factors contributing to the evolution of the earth’s varied landscapes. In addition, advanced skills courses and a capstone course prepare the student to apply their training in a variety of jobs and/or graduate school. Some courses listed below are offered alternate years. A student’s course sequence may differ from that shown depending upon the date the student enters the program and the availability of courses.

**Human Geography Emphasis**
Choose 12 credits from the following:
ANTY 101D Anthropology and the Human Experience 3
ANTY 225IS Culture, Language, and Society 3
PSCI 210IS Introduction to American Government 3
SOCI 101IS Introduction to Sociology 3
ECNS 101IS Economic Way of Thinking 3
ECNS 202 Principles of Macroeconomics 3
ERTH 212RN Yellowstone: Scientific Lab 4
Take an additional 9 credits of Advisor-approved upper division electives

**Physical Geography Emphasis**
Choose 12 credits from the following:
BIOB 170IN Principles of Biological Diversity 4
CHMY 121IN Introduction to General Chemistry 4 & CHMY 122IN and Introduction to General Chemistry Lab
GEO 105IN Oceanography 3
ENSC 245IN Soils 3
ERTH 212RN Yellowstone: Scientific Lab 4
Take an additional 9 credits of Advisor-approved upper division electives

The advisor-approved upper division electives (minimum 9 credits) will be selected from course offerings in Anthropology, Economics, History, Native American Studies, Political Science, Sociology, as well as Earth Science, Geology, and Geography (1 course only from within the department). The courses used here cannot be used to fulfill the other course requirements in the Geography Option.