

Geography Careers

What can I do professionally with a geography education?

Students often do not declare geography as their major or minor because of the ***INACCURATE PERCEPTION*** that the only jobs available for geographers are either teacher/professor or cartographer. In reality, geographers can and do hold ***numerous types of jobs***. While some jobs require specific content knowledge, all jobs require the ability to acquire information, analyze it, and apply that information to solve real world problems. Geographers are trained in these skills and thus are well prepared to hold diverse positions.

Often the position held by a geographer is not called "geographer." In fact, it probably will not be. Here are ***just a few*** of the types of jobs for which geographers qualify: ***Government analyst, transportation planner, urban planner, cartographer, tourism planner, teacher, professor, editor, forest ranger, park ranger, business analyst, environmental scientist, natural resource conservation specialist***. Geographers are also employed as ***travel agents, airline pilots, insurance agents, real estate professionals, journalists, meteorologists, climatologists, geomorphologists, soil scientists, statisticians, air photo interpreters, hydrologists, GIS specialists, remote sensing analysts, intelligence officers, librarians, and regional analysts***. Also, the Military provides numerous opportunities for geographers, both in uniform and as a civilian employee.

Geography is closely allied with many academic disciplines, which creates additional employment opportunities. These include ***biology, physics, geology, astronomy, archaeology, anthropology, business, education, political science, history, sociology, computer science, mathematics, and statistics***, along with many others.

The ***Association of American Geographers*** in Washington, D.C. has published brochures addressing this question. Talk with a geography faculty member about your concerns. He/she can give you the AAG address and provide information about the types of jobs that recent geography graduates have found.

Contact Professor Larson for a copy of the brochure.

The world facing today's college graduate is more crowded, the physical environment more threatened, and the global economy more competitive than the one faced by their parents. Understanding that world, that environment, and that economy requires proficiency in geography.