Geography is the study of the Earth: its physical processes, peoples, societies, and cultures. Geography is a “big picture” discipline that serves as an important connection among the social, physical, and mathematical sciences, as well as humanities. It incorporates aspects of many other fields such as geology, history, biology, and anthropology. Given this, geographers are ideally suited to address some of the world’s most pressing problems, such as addressing global climate change, assessing the impacts of social policies, mediating debates over land use and sustainable development, and assessing the interactions between nature and society.

The Department of Geography offers a major and minor in geography, minors in GIS and environmental science. Geography students explore the human and natural world through classroom, laboratory, and field experiences, as well as through individual research, internships, and attendance at professional meetings. They learn to use modern computer equipment and the latest software and databases. The geography student is creative, enjoys challenges, can learn through observation and research, and enjoys the satisfaction of improving global conditions. In addition, the Department of Geography offers courses in geology.

A major in geography offers broad training in physical and human environments, on the major world regions, nature and society interactions, and geographic techniques. Upon graduation, geographers have diverse knowledge applicable to a wide range of careers. The largest employers of geographers with bachelor’s degrees are federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as educational systems. Geography offers important skills for careers in planning, market analysis, economic development, travel-tourism, teaching, criminal justice, agriculture, environmental studies, natural resource management, international affairs, spatial data analysis, cartography, and geographic information systems.

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of this major is to train students to analyze global issues like a geographer, that is, to take the physical processes and/or human interactions of the Earth and integrate them over space and time. Geography will prepare students to use knowledge about global, physical, and human patterns and process them to critically analyze and solve current geographical issues, including global warming, conservation, globalization, terrorism, and technology advances. This program fosters scientific, cultural, and technological literacies that will prepare geography students to think and act with professional, personal, civic, and social responsibility in the 21st century.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will:

1. Recognize the unique subject and methods of geography and be able to use geographical concepts contributing to the solution of societal and environmental problems
2. Understand the processes and patterns of the physical world and how human actions impact and interact with natural systems
3. Develop a perspective that allows them to understand spatial variation and diversity on global, regional, and local scales
4. Have the skills to read, interpret, use, and make maps and be able to solve and communicate spatial problems using geographic technologies
5. Have the ability to conduct, process, prepare, and present empirical geographic research at a fundamental level
6. Have knowledge of the potential career opportunities for geographers

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total for graduation</td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education</td>
<td></td>
<td>44-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>37-43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 within the major studies for graduation.

MAJORS

- Geography Major, B.A. (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/ba)
- Geography Major, B.S. (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/bas)
MINORS
• Geography Minor (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/minor)
• Environmental Science Minor (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/environmental-science-minor)
• Geographic Information Systems Minor (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/geographic-information-systems-minor)

CERTIFICATE
• Geographic Information Systems Certificate (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/geography/geographic-information-systems-certificate)

FACULTY AND LECTURERS
Additional information about the Faculty and Lecturers below may be found in the Faculty and Academic Staff (http://catalog.uwplatt.edu/faculty-academic-staff) section of this catalog.

Dornak, L. Lynnette
Kakde, Ela
Larson, Evan
Stradford, H. Todd
Underwood, Christopher A.
Valiga, James
Waugh, Richard A.