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**G E O G R A P H Y —
M A K I N G A
D I F F E R E N C E**

[WWW.WMICH.EDU/
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Western Michigan University & Geography

Founded in 1903, Western Michigan University has had a strong Geography program throughout its entire history. Today the University has nearly 30,000 students with a comprehensive variety of academic programs. Usually about 2,000 of our students come from outside the United States, from more than 100 countries. Western is one of the U.S.'s 40 largest universities by total student size, and by size of international student population.

Geography has many alumni worldwide, and we look to maintain ours as a Geography Program of

high quality, whose students are accepted into the best graduate programs in the nation. Our alumni pursue successful careers in business, government, education and the services both within and outside the United States—literally from Michigan to Malaysia!

Western Michigan University is located in the City of Kalamazoo—a small, safe metropolis in southern Michigan about half way between Chicago (IL) and Detroit (MI) one hour east of Lake Michigan. You can get to Kalamazoo by air, rail and highway.

The University offers comprehensive cultural and athletic programs. It has excellent facilities, and has been rated as one of the top 100 institutions in the nation. Recently *Wired* magazine rated it among the top 75 universities for computing facilities. And Geography is one of the 10 best equipped departments in the nation.

Michigan lies in the heart of the beautiful Great Lakes Region, one of the 'wonders of the world'. Western is a great place to continue your education after graduation.



The Geography option is located in the Geography Department in Wood Hall.



College of
Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

G E O G R A P H Y M A J O R

A Geography Major for Me?

Career Opportunities

- GIS Analyst
- Cartographer
- GIS Consultant
- Remote Sensing Analyst
- Environmental Analysis
- Geodemographics
- Economic Development
- GIS Database Development
- Tax Mapping
- Hazardous Waste Planner
- Environmental Manager
- Wetlands Specialist
- Soils Analyst
- Permitting
- Environmental Consultant
- Land Conservator
- Electronic Media Developer
- Marketing Analyst
- Logistical Analyst

Majoring in Geography is a great option for several reasons. A Geography major allows students to have a mix of courses and concentration areas that are defined by their personal interests. A Geography Major with a concentration in Economic and Regional Geography can be a good liberal arts major with a broad emphasis on social science and economic issues. A concentration in Environmental Analysis and Resource Management can be a good physical science major that combines science, economics, and policy to study, manage, and restore natural resources and ecosystems.



Callie Hudson, 2012 Senior in the GIScience Geography major concentration

Finally a concentration in Geographic Information Science can focus on spatial analytical techniques. In fact, the Geography major is an excellent choice for students with broad interests. No single program prepares you for all you will ever need to know

in a professional career. So, no matter what your interest, you will want to create your own "package" of skills and knowledge to make you an attractive and competitive employee and citizen. Often geography students choose to go on to graduate school for more specialized studies in Geography, Earth Science, Planning, Law, Public Health, or International Studies. Your energy, imagination, and drive will define how far you go and in what direction. Good Luck!

This Major has a core of required courses, and choice of elective courses.

Starting in Community College?

If you begin at a community college, make sure that you get basic skills you will be able to use in later classes. This includes office and computer competence in word processing, spreadsheets,

Power-point, etc. Take the basic general education courses needed for graduation. Do not avoid courses that focus on the United States and the physical and social sciences. You will need this background later.

A public speaking course is important. Don't avoid basic math and critical thinking courses including statistics.

University Degree Requirements

Western Michigan University requires all students to have completed 122 semester credit hours to receive a bachelor's degree. This includes any credit hours that have been officially recognized from other colleges or community colleges.

The specific requirements for graduation that govern you are found in the Western Michigan University Undergraduate Catalog. Since the University changes over time, the version of the Catalog that

governs is the one that is current in the year you enter the University.

Your total credit hours in-



Dr Benjamin Ofori-Amoah,
Geography Department Chair

clude those in your Geography Major, your related minor (s) or other major, general education courses, and electives.

The Geography Major allows you to arrange an international study abroad experience, to do an independent study project under the guidance of a Geography faculty member, or (in some cases) a professional internship.. (See below.) You need to plan your program to take advantage of these options, and to think ahead towards your evolving career plans.

Minors Supporting the Geography Major

You should choose a minor listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. Recommended minors can come from either the colleges of Arts & Sciences, Fine Arts, or Business at Western Michigan University.

Arts & Science Minors include Foreign Languages & Linguistics, Asian & Middle Eastern Languages, Communications, Journalism, Practical Writing (English), Global Studies (Asian, African, European, Latin American Studies), American Studies, Geo-

sciences, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, History, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Anthropology, Public Administration, Environmental Studies, and more.

There are many excellent choices.

Study Abroad, Research Experience, or Internship Options

We recommend that students in this major consider an optional study abroad experience. This is a good way to learn Geography through personal experience and learn of the world beyond the U.S. There are many universities worldwide with excellent Geography programs.

We also recommend students consider doing an independent research activity under the supervision of a Geography faculty member. Carrying through an independent research project is an important demonstration to employers and graduate schools that students can work self-reliantly to answer important questions.

It is also possible to pursue an internship with some agency or organization off-campus. This gives insight into the working world, but also gives agencies an opportunity to observe your skills and work ethic. So all of these can add value to your degree.

The Geography Curriculum

Your complete program of study at Western Michigan University, or at other colleges from which you are transferring credit, constitutes the entire Bachelor of Science Geography curriculum. This curriculum can be supplemented by adding knowledge and skills from other places also.

General Education & Liberal Education Curricular Requirements. To complete a college degree at Western Michigan University, each student fulfills "General Education" goals. Each student gains understanding of the natural and social sciences; knowledge of the United States and some international issues/regions; computer, mathematics, and critical reasoning proficiencies, etc. Please see the General Education section of the Undergraduate Catalog for a full description.

The Geography Major. The Geography major is a liberal arts major that combines well with other College of Arts & Sciences majors and minors. By making choices about the courses they take, students may pursue a specialized study plan, prepare for careers related to Geography, or plan for further study after graduation. Students are encouraged to consider one of the following:

- Complete a study abroad experience
- Pursue guided independent study
- Participate in a professional internship (GEOG 412).

The 32 credit hour major has three parts, a required core of 14 credit hours, a 6 to 8 hour concentration, and elective courses to make up the remainder of the major. See below for a description.

• *The Core Courses:*

Geography 1050 Physical Geography	4 cr. hrs.
Geography 2050 Human Geography	3 cr. hrs.
Geography 2650 Introduction to Geospatial Technologies	3 cr. hrs.
Geography 3030 Geographic Inquiry*	4 cr. hrs.

*Prerequisite: You should complete a course in statistics (Stat 2160, 2600, or 3660 or equivalent).

Concentration Requirements: Students should select from one or more of the following concentrations:

•Environmental Analysis and Resource Management (7 hours)	
GEOG 3500 Conservation and Environmental Management	4 cr. hrs.
GEOG 5570 Environmental Impact Assessment	3 cr. hrs.
•Geographic Information Science (8 hours)	
GEOG 5690 Intermediate GIS	4 cr. hrs.
GEOG 5820 Remote Sensing of the Environment	4 cr. hrs.
•Economic and Regional Geography (6 hours)	
GEOG 2440 Economic Geography	3 cr. hrs.
AND one of the following:	
GEOG 3800 United States and Canada	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3810 South America	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3820 Mexico and the Caribbean	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3830 Geography of Europe	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3890 Monsoon Asia	3 cr. hrs.
GEOG 3900 China, Japan, and Korea	3 cr. hrs.

The Related Minor. All Geography majors select a minor also. These minors serve as an important complement to the major. Properly selected, the major and the minor strengthen a student for subsequent careers. However, it is not necessary to select a minor that you think will "pay off" later—particularly if you have no personal interest in it. It is often better to select a minor that you have some interest (or "passion" for) because your motivation stays high. We find that students who maintain their enthusiasm often find interesting (even unique) uses for their minors. (Note: It is possible for students to "double major" instead of a minor.)