



What Geographers Do

Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences and the natural sciences. There are two main branches of geography: human geography and physical geography. Human geography is concerned with the spatial aspects of human existence. Physical geographers study patterns of climates, landforms, vegetation, soils, and water. Geographers use many tools and techniques in their work, and geographic technologies are increasingly important for understanding our complex world. They include Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and online mapping such as Google Earth.

Subfields in Geography include: Geomorphology, Weather and Climate, Biogeography, Natural Hazards, Economic Geography, Political Geography, Cultural Geography, Population Geography, Human-Environment Interaction, Cartography, GIS, Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, Field Methods, Spatial Statistics, Regional Geography, Spatial Thinking, Global Perspective, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, and Diversity Perspectives.

Where Geographers Work

Education - The education sector includes K through 12 institutions, colleges and universities that award at least a two-year degree, continuing education and informal education organizations, and higher education institutions. Educators may also work in educational administration and academic research

positions. At BSU, we offer a specific major focused on K-8 teaching in combination with a student's education degree. BSU geography majors have gone on to graduate school at the University of Colorado, Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, Arizona State University, UMass-Amherst, Boston College, and numerous other highly rated programs.

Business - The business, or private, sector refers to the segment of the economy composed of enterprises owned by individuals or groups. Corporations are accountable to their shareholders and operate at national or international scales. Independent businesses are privately owned by an individual or small group and usually operate at a local or regional scale. All businesses today, from agriculture to high-tech, are affected by both location and globalization. BSU students have found work in area utility companies, coffee specialists (a very geographic crop!), mapping/GIS firms, banks and other businesses from local to international.

Government - Applicants new to the public sector, which includes federal, state, and local government, may find the broad, integrative perspective offered by academic training in geography to be an asset. Nearly 2 million civilians—1.8 percent of the U.S. workforce—are employed by the federal government, while state and local governments employ 19.8 million workers. Geography's emphasis on addressing real-world problems and issues is excellent preparation for public sector employment, particularly at the local and state levels where much policy innovation, implementation, and bottom-line responsibility reside. BSU geography majors have gone on to jobs in city and regional planning agencies, the MA Department of Natural Resources, the MA Department of the Environment, and in federal agencies in the US and abroad.

Nonprofit - Roughly nine percent of the U.S. workforce (12 million individuals) is employed by an estimated 1.4 million nonprofit organizations, whose causes and values span the entire political spectrum. Because nonprofits typically strive to create a better world (as defined by their mission statements), they offer great opportunities for job seekers hoping to make a difference. BSU geography majors have worked in the Peace Corps, VISTA, US Agency for International Development, Habitat for Humanity and similar "NGO's" (non-governmental agencies).