What can I do with a Major in Geography?

The Geography Program at the University of Lethbridge

Geography is a diverse discipline, encompassing the study of spatial organization, environmental change and regional models in both human and natural systems. Geographers employ theories and techniques from the social and natural sciences as well as emerging information technologies.

Following the completion of a common core of courses, geography majors can choose to concentrate on human geography, physical geography or geographical techniques. Students will leave the program with a strong ability to perform fieldwork and risk assessment techniques and to summarize research findings. Students will develop critical and analytical problem solving skills and an in-depth knowledge of environmental and social issues.

The department of Geography offers a number of programs including a major in Geography for a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Art & Science degree programs. Students pursuing these programs can declare a concentration in Geographical Information Science (GIS).

Skills Developed

- Communication
- Computer Knowledge
- Detail Oriented
- Enjoy Laboratory Work
- Enjoy Working on a Team
- Interest in field studies
- Observant
- Organized
- Patient & Self-Motivated
- Problem Solver
- Surveying Techniques
- Time Management
- Understanding the Interrelationship of Social, Economic, Political & Cultural Factors
- Visualization Skills
- Work Well Independently

Work Environments

Geography graduates often secure employment with local, provincial and federal government departments, or with corporations and consultants around the world. Graduates of this program typically work in industries/sectors such as environmental protection agencies, agriculture or energy departments, national or provincial forestry/park services, academic or research laboratories, real estate development companies, environmental surveying companies, market research firms, planning agencies, aeronautics and space administration agencies, oceanic and atmospheric administration agencies, map publishers, mapping/GIS/GPS software companies, environmental planning agencies, consulting firms, non-profit organizations, law firms, waste management companies, museums and historical sites, or...
international trade & development organizations. A degree in Geography also provides an excellent foundation for future studies in Environmental Law, Management, Journalism, Education or Geology.

**Key Areas of Specialization:**
Physical Geography, Environmental Geography, Economic Geography, Cultural & Human Geography, Planning, Tools & Technology, Education

**Entry Level Job Titles**

These jobs are normally intended for new graduates and require 0 to 2 years of experience. It is important to note that many entry level positions require *some* related experience or demonstrated ability to perform job-related tasks. Even those positions that do not *require* experience will still prefer an experienced candidate, if one is available.

- Assistant Policy Planner
- Assistant Transit Planner
- CAD Technologist
- Cartographic Aide
- Data Analyst/Technician
- Data Entry Technician
- Entry Level Remote Sensing Scientist
- Environmental Planning Intern
- Environmental Technician
- Field Research Assistant
- GIS Technician
- Graduate Planning Officer
- Junior CAD Technician
- Junior Electronics Technician
- Map Room Clerk
- Materials Property Specialist
- Network Operations Assistant
- Permit Specialist
- Planner (Country Highway District)
- Planning Technician
- Project Coordinator
- Research Analyst
- Research Project Coordinator
- Resource Development Planner
- Safety Education Outreach Internship
- Seasonal Remote Sensing Office Technician
- Survey Assistant
- Transportation Planner for Policy & Programming

**Note:** The U of L offers various resources and programs to facilitate students in gaining work and volunteer experience. Find an entry level position on the CES job board or join the Management or Arts & Science Cooperative Education Programs. Summer jobs, part-time work, internship positions and volunteer experience help students to enhance their skillset and accumulate work experience for their future career.

**Related Job Titles**

These jobs generally require extensive, relevant work experience and/or further education.

- Agricultural Planner
- Biogeographer
- CAD/GIS/GPS Instructor
- Cartographer
- Community Developer
- Coastal Zone Specialist /Manager
- Demographer
- Demographic Analyst
- Drafter/CAD Chief
- Draftperson
- Dredging Technician
- Earth Scientist
- Eco-Tourism Guide
- Ecologist Industrial Planner
- Environmental Assessment Officer
- Environmental Consultant
- Environmental Impact Specialist
- Foreign Area Study Consultant
- Geo-Coach Professional
- Geo-Database Product Engineer
- Geocoding & Geosearch Testing Product Engineer
- Geographer
- Geographic Area Specialist
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst
- Geographical Laboratory Assistant
- Geologist
- Geomatics Field Supervisor
- Geomatics Plan Checker
- Geomatics Project Supervisor
- Geomatics Technician
- Geophysics Assistant
Thinking Outside the Box: Other Possible Job Titles

On average, people change their careers three to five times in their lifetime. So, no matter what major you choose, you may still be interested in opportunities totally unrelated to your program of study. We encourage you to be open to all possibilities! Your undergraduate degree can be a springboard for other educational pursuits, and your transferable skills and experience can prepare you to work in a multitude of settings.

- Application Developer
- Business Development Manager
- City Regional Planner
- Community Development Specialist
- Computer Programmer
- Construction Manager
- Consultant with Development Experience
- Cultural Resource Specialist
- Customer Support Intern
- Emergency Management Officer
- Enterprise Architect
- Environment Evaluator
- Environment Officer
- Environmental Project Manager
- Environmental Quality Specialist
- Geo-Database Product Engineer
- GIS Sales Specialist
- Health Service Planner
- Historic Prevention Planner
- Historical Consulting
- Housing Specialist
- Intelligence Agent
- Intermediate Technical Writer/Editor
- International Business Representative
- Interpretive Specialist
- Land Management Assistant
- Merchandising Representative
- Meteorologist
- Oceanographer
- Program & Communication Manager
- Property Manager
- Software Developer
- Technical Support Representative
- Travel Agent/Specialist
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Web User Interface Developer
- Wildlife Manager
- Writer/Author/Editor

- Geospatial Application Analyst
- Geospatial Data Analyst
- GIS Cadastral Specialist
- GIS Coordinator
- GIS Data Specialist
- GIS Developer
- GIS Information Processor
- GIS IT Team Leader
- GIS Programmer
- GIS Return Data Specialist
- GIS Specialist
- GIS Technician/Manager
- GPS/Geomatics Technician
- Hazardous Waste Planner
- Hydrologist
- Impact Analyst
- Institutional Analyst
- Land Surveying Crew Chief
- Land-Use Analyst
- Location Analyst/Expert
- Map Editor
- Municipal & Resource Planner
- Natural Resources Specialist
- Outdoor Educator – Forest Program
- Park Ranger/Manager
- Physical Scientist
- Policy Advisor
- Project Manager, Geomatics Section
- Public Utility Specialist
- Radio Technician/GIS Mapping
- Remote Sensing Analyst
- Research Assistant
- Senior GIS Administrator & Developer
- Senior Mapping Technologist
- Soil Conservation Technician
- Soils Specialist
- Spatial Data Systems Developer
- Spatial Information Management Officer
- Tourism Developer
- Traffic Manager
- Transportation Analyst
- Urban & Regional Planner
- Water Resources Specialist
- Weather Forecaster
- Weather/Climate Specialist
- Web Mapping Developer
Useful Resources

Recommended websites to assist in exploring the field of Geography and its career opportunities.

Canadian Association of Geographers
http://www.cag-acg.ca

Eco Canada – Environmental Career Organization
http://www.eco.ca

The Royal Canadian Geographical Society
http://www.rcgs.org/

Canadian Institute of Planners
https://www.cip-icu.ca

Geological Association of Canada
http://www.gac.ca/wp/

Association of American Geographers
www.aag.org

Natural Resources Canada
http://www.nrcan.gc.ca

GeoCommunity
http://www.geocomm.com

Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping Technologies
http://www.assmt.ca/

Geo Job Source
http://www.geojobsource.com

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta
http://www.apega.ca/

Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society
http://www.cmos.ca/

Geomatics Canada
http://geomaticscanada.com/

Geo Job Source
http://www.geojobsource.com

Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences
http://www.geoscience.ca

GIS Lounge
http://www.gislounge.com/

Campus Resources

Career & Employment Services (CES)
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/

Accommodated Learning Centre
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/

Career Counselling (Counselling Services)
http://www.uleth.ca/counselling/

International Centre for Students
http://www.uleth.ca/international/

Academic Advising
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-advising

Registrar Office & Student Services
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/

Native Student Advising
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/native-student-advising

Scholarship & Students Finance
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/student-finance/

Student Success Centre – Study Skills, Learning Strategies & Tutoring
http://www.uleth.ca/student-success-centre/

U of L Students’ Union & Student Clubs
http://www.ulsu.ca/

July2014
# Campus Job Resources

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<td>CES Job board</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uleth.ca/management/co-op">http://www.uleth.ca/management/co-op</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Science Applied Studies</td>
<td>Study Abroad &amp; Exchanges</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/applied-studies/students">http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/applied-studies/students</a></td>
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**Career & Employment Services (CES)**

CES assists U of L students and graduates with their career exploration and work search needs.

AH154 Anderson Hall, Phone: 403-329-2000  
Mon- Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.