

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

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Programs of the Department

The Department of Geography and Environmental Planning offers the following programs: majors in Geography and Environmental Planning and in Geography and Land Surveying; minors in Geography, in Geographic Information Sciences and in Climate, Weather and Society; and the Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental Planning. The Department also participates in the Master of Education. For more information about the graduate programs, consult the *Graduate Catalog*.

The Geography and Environmental Planning major is designed as a liberal arts program that explores how geographers carefully observe and measure human uses of the earth under diverse combinations of natural and cultural environments. The program prepares students for careers in business, management, government service, non-profit organizations, planning, public affairs and other professions, as well as for graduate school.

The major in Geography and Land Surveying is designed to meet the requirements of professionals in the field of land surveying. Courses taken in geography at Towson University will complement those taken in surveying at the Community College of Baltimore County-Catonsville and provide additional skills of value to the professional surveyor. Completion of the four-year degree will shorten the time necessary to achieve professional licensure.

Internships

Majors have the opportunity to participate in the university's Internship/Cooperative Education Program. This valuable adjunct to the educational program provides qualifying students with both academic credit and work experience with participating government agencies (federal, state and local) and private businesses. The internship offers the student a way of trying out a potential career choice prior to actual entry into the job market. Because the benefits of this experience are so positive, majors are strongly urged to participate in this program. Interns must work a minimum of 40 hours for each internship unit.

Special Departmental Programs

The department sponsors the Beta Delta Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, an international geography honorary society. All Geography majors with a 3.30 cumulative GPA or higher are welcome to join.

Travel studies are available during the summer inside and outside the United States.

Qualified Geography undergraduates may be eligible, beginning in their junior year, to participate in an accelerated B.A./ M.A. program in Geography. Interested students should contact the Geography Department for details.

Qualified undergraduates in the Geography minor program may be eligible, beginning in their junior year, to participate in an accelerated Geography Minor/M.A program in Geography. Contact the department for details.

Departmental Honors In Geography

The department offers an honors program in geography. To be admitted, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25, and a 3.50 in the major, or consent of their faculty adviser. Students may be admitted to the program no sooner than the spring of their sophomore year.

The honors program requires a minimum of 40 units, including 6 to 9 units in seminars, directed readings and research projects. A senior thesis and oral defense are also required. Students should consult their faculty adviser for more information.

Careers In Geography And Environmental Planning

Faculty of the department are active in career advising. Occasional careers days are held, and the department participates in a regional network of career advising in geography. Graduates of the department are currently employed in a wide array of jobs such as environmental analysts and policy makers, GIS professionals, urban planners, teachers, professors, meteorologists, intelligence analysts with the Department of Defense, cartographers, statisticians, travel agents and many more.

The Master of Arts degree program in Geography and Environmental Planning is designed to prepare students for doctoral programs as well as for career opportunities in private business and public agencies. The program is oriented toward applied geography and allows students to specialize in geographic information science, human geography, area studies, or the management of environmental resources.

Graduate students in Geography and Environmental Planning are encouraged to take pertinent course work in other departments. Students may pursue either the thesis program (30 units and a 6-unit thesis) or the non-thesis program (36 units). Detailed information is given in the *Graduate Catalog*

Majors

- Major in Geography and Environmental Planning
- Major in Geography and Land Surveying
- Accelerated B.S./M.A. in Geography and Environmental Planning

Minors

- Minor in Climate, Weather & Society
- Minor in Geography
- Minor in Geographic Information Sciences

Faculty

Professors: Kang Shou Lu, Alan Marcus, Martin Roberge, Charles Schmitz (Chairperson), Jeremy Tasch (Graduate Program Director), Paporn Thebpanya

Associate Professors: Kelsey Hanrahan, Sya Kedzior, James Smith

Assistant Professors: Michael Allen, Emily Kaufman, Sayma Khajehei, Carter Wang

Lecturer: Michael Eduful

Lecturer II: Natalia Fath, Robert Neff