Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental Studies

For more information contact:
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Careers in Geography

Students who complete the B.S. Geography and Environmental Studies degree at Western Kentucky University will be able to pursue careers that include the following:

- Environmental Management
- GIS, Planning, and Development
- Broadcast Meteorology
- Resource Sustainability
- Social and Cultural Analysis
- Diplomatic Service
- Business, Industry, and Tourism

Students who enter graduate school and pursue a M.S. or Ph.D. in Geography will be able to pursue careers that include the following:

- University professor
- Geospatial research
- Sustainability and Environment
- Planning and GIS
- Consulting

Facilities at Western Kentucky University

WKU is home to the Hoffman Institute, an interdisciplinary research group that aims to better understand landscape/atmosphere/water/human interactions. The Institute, directed by Drs Groves, Polk, and North, involves students in all aspects of this work to increase their critical thinking skills and technical expertise in the environmental discipline and to prepare them for success in a global society. Other research clusters include cultural geography, environment and sustainability, climate, planning and GIS, and physical geography.

WKU has been home to the Kentucky Climate Center since 1978, and the Kentucky Mesonet since 2005. The Kentucky Climate Center is the State Climate Office for Kentucky and home to the State Climatologist, Dr. Stuart Foster. The mission of the Kentucky Climate Center is to conduct research and disseminate information of climatic variability and change, influences of the natural environment upon human activity, and impacts of human activity upon the natural environment.

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The B.S. Geography and Environmental Studies program at Western Kentucky University requires a minimum of 52 semester hours of geography, plus supporting coursework. A minor or second major is NOT required. Students majoring in geography will learn the concepts and skills necessary to qualify for a variety of career opportunities that require a solid foundation in spatial thinking and analysis.

Why Major in Geography?
- Geography offers a broader knowledge base than any other discipline;
- Geography offers a global perspective or world view on place and society;
- Geography focuses on human-environment relationships and variations in environmental quality;
- Geography has the tools to analyze and manage space effectively and successfully;
- Geography is holistic, in that it combines both the human and physical aspects of place and space.

B.S. Geography and Environmental Studies Curriculum

Core requirements (26 credit hours)
GEOG 103 or GEOL 103 Our Dynamic Planet
GEOG 110 World/Regional Geography
GEOG 300 Writing in the Geosciences
GEOG 316 Fundamentals of GIS
GEOG 317 GIS
GEOG 391 Spatial Data Analysis
GEOG 475 Internship, Practicum, or Research
GEOG 499 Professional Development

Professional Courses (26 credit hours)
Concentrations in:
Karst Geoscience and Water Resources
Environmental Science and Climate
Tourism and Development
Cultural Geography

Other requirements (6 or more hours)
MATH 116 Algebra
MATH 183 Statistics (prereq for GEOG 391)

Other additional requirements exist for the Karst Geoscience and Water Resource concentration. Refer to the departmental website for more info: http://www.wku.edu/geoweb/info/aboutgeo.html

Why focus on Geography and Environmental Studies at Western Kentucky University?

The B.S. in Geography and Environmental Studies program at WKU is the largest such program in Kentucky or Tennessee. Students can become more directly involved in faculty-sponsored research, with opportunities for co-authorship of peer-reviewed research articles, and presentation of research results at professional meetings, conferences, and workshops.

Faculty research a variety of human-environment issues that both inform the coursework students take and provide students with opportunities to engage in a number of projects that directly influence the human condition.