

Department of

Geography

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Introduction

Geography's ancient intellectual heritage persists today as we continue to examine the complexities and interrelationships of the world's physical and cultural systems. Geography functions as a synthesizing discipline, providing a "bridge" between the physical and social sciences. We strive to perpetuate this long-standing objective by providing classes which investigate both the physical and cultural world. Geography students are taught to think in spatial terms, considering where physical and cultural phenomena are located, why they occupy this space, and the implications of these patterns.

Our courses are designed to fulfill several purposes:

(1) Provide exposure to the thinking of influential scholars of the discipline, both past and present. (2) Prepare prospective teachers in geographic fundamentals to facilitate teaching those fundamentals to their students. (3) Encourage an understanding of geographic research and practice. (4) Introduction to research methodology, and introduce students to "leading edge" technology in geographic research and practice, in areas such as GIS and land-use planning. (5) Help students gain geographic literacy and certification as teachers of Geography at secondary level. (6) To unequivocally support the mission of BYU-Idaho and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Career Opportunities

It is recommended that those with an interest in becoming geographers seek a broad background in many fields, especially in the Social and Earth Sciences. Geography majors may choose from careers in travel and tourism, cartography, business, government, education, planning and resource management or Geographic Information Systems.

A Geography-based, "Travel and Tourism" four-year degree program is available at BYU. This program is for students interested in careers as travel agents or tourism related careers. You can complete two of the core courses of this program (Geog 101 and Geog 120), while at BYU - Idaho. Contact BYU Department of Geography for further information.

Department Requirements

Students must earn a C- or better in all courses.

Course Descriptions **Credits***

- GEOG 101 Introduction Physical Geography (3:3:0)**
 A geographic approach to the study of the physical environment.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 101L Physical Geography Lab (1:0:1)**
 Lab for Physical Geography.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 110 Geography for Elementary Teachers (3:3:0)**
 Introduces elementary education majors to the fundamentals of Physical and Human Geography.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 120 Geography and World Affairs (3:3:0)**
 The study of human cultures as they interact with each other and with their physical environment.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 206 Introduction to Secondary Methods (1:1:0)**
 Introduction to methods of effective teaching for secondary education majors.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 230 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3:3:0)**
 Provides a foundation in the spatial theory that is the basis of geographic information systems, along with a basic understudy of the operating procedures and capabilities of GIS software.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 240 Maps and Remote Sensing (3:3:0)**
 Introduction to the principles of cartography and various types of remote sensing.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 320 Geography of North America (3:3:0)**
 An examination of the physical and historical geography of North America as well as a consideration of the environmental, cultural, economic, and demographic processes reshaping this region. (Every other semester)
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 321 Geography of Developing Nations (3:3:0)**
 This course will focus on underdeveloped regions of the world to examine major themes related to development and underdevelopment, poverty, and wealth, equality and inequality.
 (Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 340 Advanced GIS and Spatial Analysis (3:3:0)**
 This course is a continuation of Geog 230 with an emphasis on spatial interpolation, spatial modeling, and use of vocational knowledge in decision making. Present and potential applications of GIS and spatial theory in various disciplines are also explored.
 (Every other semester)
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 350 Cultural Geography (3:3:0)**
 The systematic study of various cultural geographic themes including population, language, religion, politics, ethnicity, and "pop culture." (Every other semester)
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 398R Geography Internship (1-6:0:0)**
 Repeatable Course: may earn maximum of 6 credits
 An internship is a cooperative program between the BYU-Idaho Department of History, Geography, and Political Science and an approved organization. Professional internships correlate actual work experience with course work; provide students with knowledge of career opportunities, and give students work experience in preparation for employment after graduation. Ideas for internships are developed by the student in consultation with the department internship coordinator.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- GEOG 406 Secondary Methods for Social Studies (3:3:0)**
 Prerequisites: ED 361; GEOG 205
 Methods of effective teaching for secondary education majors.
 (Fall, Winter, Spring)