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Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Geography (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Options:

Honours, Major, Minor

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

Geography is the study of earth spaces and places. Geographers are concerned with the distribution and patterning of physical and human phenomena in earth space, including the nature and magnitude of human impact on natural environments. Protecting sustainable environments and managing the earth's valued resources – land, water and air – are of vital interest to geographers. The geographic concepts of place and landscape provide a framework for understanding the role of culture in the evolution and development of urban and rural landscapes. Political, social and economic processes, when examined from a spatial (geographic) and temporal (historical) perspective, enable students to appreciate and understand the dynamic processes associated with the development of local and regional landscapes.

The B.A. Major in Geography features two areas of specialization – *Sustainable Resource Management* or *Urban and Social Sustainability* – and a *General* stream designed to broaden an understanding of physical and human geography. Theoretical and applied course work in each stream are designed to strengthen communication skills in oral, written and visual presentations, and to provide a range of transferable skills, notably in the areas of spatial analysis, remote sensing, and geographic information systems (GIS). Students will be challenged to think critically, analyze problems, and seek resolutions to conflicts, particularly in the fields of natural resource management and urban and social management.

The B.A. Minor in Geography provides the flexibility to tailor a program that best suits educational and/or career goals. Geography is a teachable subject in the British Columbia secondary system.

VIU's dedicated, industry-standard GIS lab features the most up-to-date software packages, and the program provides ample opportunity to apply these computer-based tools and techniques. Small class sizes and active student-faculty interaction strengthen each student's learning experience.

Program Outline

Requirements for a Major

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed below:

General Stream

Years 1 and 2	Credits
GEOG 100 - (World Regional Geography)	3
GEOG 101 - (Environmental Geography)	3
GEOG 211 - (Atmospheric Environments)	3
GEOG 212 - (Earth Environments)	3
GEOG 221 - (Statistical Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 228 - (Maps and Mapping)	3
GEOG 240 - (Economics, Society and Environment)	3
GEOG 290 - (Regions of Canada)	3
Year 1 and 2 Credits	24

Years 3 and 4	Credits
GEOG 322 - (Geographic Communication)	3
GEOG 324 - (Research Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 328 - (Geographic Information Systems)	3
GEOG 467 - (Field Studies in Geography I)	3
<i>Six</i> upper-level GEOG courses	18
<i>Five</i> upper-level electives	15
Year 3 and 4 Credits	45

Sustainable Resource Management Stream

Years 1 and 2	Credits
GEOG 100 - (World Regional Geography)	3
GEOG 101 - (Environmental Geography)	3
GEOG 211 - (Atmospheric Environments)	3
GEOG 212 - (Earth Environments)	3
GEOG 221 - (Statistical Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 228 - (Maps and Mapping)	3
GEOG 240 - (Economics, Society and Environment)	3
GEOG 290 - (Regions of Canada)	3
Year 1 and 2 Credits	24

Years 3 and 4	Credits
GEOG 322 - (Geographic Communication)	3
GEOG 324 - (Research Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 326 - (Remote Sensing)	3
GEOG 328 - (Geographic Information Systems)	3
GEOG 350 - (Natural Resource Management)	3
GEOG 352 - (Managing Natural and Social Capital) <i>or</i> , GEOG 356 - (Policy, Resources and Sustainability)	3
GEOG 372 - (Climatology) <i>or</i> , GEOG 373 - (Biogeography)	3
GEOG 374 - (Hydrology) <i>or</i> , GEOG 376 - (Geomorphology)	3
GEOG 452 - (Applications in Natural Resource Management)	3
GEOG 467 - (Field Studies in Geography I)	3
<i>Six</i> upper-level electives	
Year 3 and 4 Credits	30

Urban and Social Sustainability Stream

Years 1 and 2	Credits
GEOG 100 - (World Regional Geography)	3
GEOG 101 - (Environmental Geography)	3
GEOG 211 - (Atmospheric Environments)	3
GEOG 212 - (Earth Environments)	3
GEOG 221 - (Statistical Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 228 - (Maps and Mapping)	3
GEOG 240 - (Economics, Society and Environment)	3
GEOG 290 - (Regions of Canada)	3
Year 1 and 2 Credits	24

Years 3 and 4	Credits
GEOG 322 - (Geographic Communication)	3
GEOG 324 - (Research Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 328 - (Geographic Information Systems)	3
GEOG 330 - (Cultural Geography)	3
GEOG 340 - (Urban Systems)	3
GEOG 342 - (Urban and Regional Planning)	3
GEOG 344 - (Urban Social Geography)	3
GEOG 352 - (Managing Natural and Social Capital) <i>or</i> , GEOG 356 - (Policy, Resources and Sustainability)	3
GEOG 446 - (Applications in Urban and Regional Management)	3
GEOG 467 - (Field Studies in Geography I)	3
<i>Five upper-level electives</i>	15
Year 3 and 4 Credits	45

Notes

(1) *Students who wish to transfer from the B.A. Minor to the B.A. Major in Geography are required to consult with the Geography Department Chair, and the B.A. Degree Advisor, to arrange the transition.*

(2) *A total of 120 credits must be completed to meet the institutional B.A. degree requirements, of which 42 credits must be 300-level or above.*

Requirements for a Minor

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed below:

Years 1 and 2	Credits
GEOG 100 - (World Regional Geography)	3
GEOG 101 - (Environmental Geography)	3
GEOG 211 - (Atmospheric Environments)	3
GEOG 212 - (Earth Environments)	3
GEOG 221 - (Statistical Methods in Geography)	3
GEOG 228 - (Maps and Mapping)	3
GEOG 240 - (Economic Geography) <i>or</i> , GEOG 290 - (Regions of Canada)	3
Year 1 and 2 Credits	21

Years 3 and 4	Credits
GEOG 328 - (Geographic Information Systems)	3
Additional <i>fifteen</i> credits of GEOG courses numbered 300 and above.	15
Year 3 and 4 Credits	18

Career Opportunities

Labour market demand for graduates with strong academic and applied backgrounds in geographic studies remains high – regionally, nationally, and internationally. This is particularly true of graduates with skills in geographic communication, spatial analysis, and GIS. Recent Canadian-based human resource studies report that GIS activity will soon surpass \$1-billion annually. Remuneration for entry-level jobs in the field of GIS is well above the norm for undergraduates seeking full-time employment opportunities upon graduation.

Some graduates may wish to pursue post-graduate studies in Geography, or in such diverse fields as education, urban planning, natural resource management, law, or public administration.

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