
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... GEOGRAPHY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

Study nature and use of areas of earth's surface, relating and interpreting interactions of physical and cultural phenomena. Conduct research on physical aspects of a region, including land forms, climates, soils, plants and animals, and conduct research on the spatial implications of human activities within a given area, including social characteristics, economic activities, and political organization, as well as researching interdependence between regions at scales ranging from local to global. "UNM's Department of Geography offers both theoretical and practical "hands-on" work in physical geography, including biogeography, hydrology; conservation of natural resources; human geography, including urban, social, and economic geography; geographic information technology (GIT), including spatial analysis using GIS, remote sensing, computer cartography, image processing; and an opportunity to put these above areas in context via a regional geography curriculum (*UNM Department of Geography website*)."

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

[Extensive Job Preparation Needed]

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school. For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree).

EMPLOYERS & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Environmental: Federal and state government: Environmental Protection Agency, Departments of Agriculture, National Forest Service - Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering, environmental issues, waste management, architecture, or surveying - Law firms - Real estate developers - Scientific and research groups

Suggested Strategy: Learn federal government job application process. Become skilled in related computer technology. Courses in biology and chemistry are a must. Take elective courses in botany, plant science, and wildlife. For a career in law, you must earn a graduate degree in law.

Cultural & Human: Companies dealing with insurance, transportation, communications, and international trade - Federal government including: Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Mapping Agency, Bureau of Census, Department of State, National Park Service - Museums - Peace Corps - Real estate developers - State, regional, and local government

Suggested Strategy: Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Become skilled in related computer technology. Develop excellent communication and teamwork skills in order to work with historians and archivists in recreating the geography of the past. Learn how to conduct library research, make field observations, and interpret artifacts. A good foreign language background is necessary for field observations in other countries. Develop an open mind towards the language, history, customs, and culture of other countries.

Geographic Technology: Federal government agencies: Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State, Defense Mapping, NASA, CIA - State and local government agencies - Private industry sector including telephone, utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms - Map publishers - Mapping software companies - Colleges and universities

Suggested Strategy: Take courses in surveying, measurements, photogrammetry, technical math, drafting, statistics, optics, remote sensing and graphics. Gain experience reading maps and interpreting data sources including geological surveys and satellite images. Seek related experience such as a part-time job or internship to develop technical skills.

Planning & Economic: Banks - Consulting firms - Federal, state, and local government - Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms - Public utilities - Real estate developers

Suggested Strategy: Obtain business or public administration knowledge through coursework or related work experience. Learn to see all sides of a problem, including economic, social, political, and environmental. Obtain master's degree in planning.

Physical: Agribusiness corporations - Federal government agencies including: US Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, The National Resources Conservation Service - Insurance companies - Outdoor recreation companies - Research institutes - Resource management agencies - State and local government - TV/Radio stations

Suggested Strategy: Take courses in physics and chemistry. Develop excellent communication skills. Be willing to relocate to regions that have job availability.

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES (2006) FOR CARTOGRAPHERS AND PHOTOGRAMMETRISTS:

	10 %	25 %	Median	75 %	90 %
New Mexico	\$ 31,400	\$ 35,800	\$ 42,900	\$ 51,000	\$ 66,200
United States	\$ 30,900	\$ 37,500	\$ 48,200	\$ 65,200	\$ 80,500

STATE & NATIONAL WAGES (2006) FOR SURVEYING AND MAPPING TECHNICIANS:

	10 %	25 %	Median	75 %	90 %
New Mexico	\$ 21,900	\$ 26,800	\$ 33,800	\$ 41,400	\$ 55,600
United States	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,100	\$ 32,300	\$ 42,200	\$ 53,300

NATIONAL WAGES (2006) FOR GEOGRAPHERS:

	10 %	25 %	Median	75 %	90 %
United States	\$ 37,500	\$ 50,100	\$ 63,000	\$ 77,800	\$ 93,900

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping
U.S. Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Protection Agency
Association of American Geographers
American Meteorological Society
Geography Jobs.com

<http://www.acsm.net/>
<http://www.usgs.gov/ohr/student/>
<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/students/careers.htm>
<http://www.aag.org/>
<http://www.ametsoc.org/>
<http://www.geographyjobs.com/>

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>