Geography

Michael Urban, Chair
College of Arts and Science
8 Stewart Hall
(573) 882-8370
geog@missouri.edu

Faculty

Professor J. J. Hobbs*
Associate Professor M. W. Foulkes*, S. C. Larsen*, M. A. Urban*, T. Matisziw*, M. Palmer
Assistant Professor G. Elliott*
Assistant Teaching Professor D. Hurt*
Instructor T. L. Halthcoat*, J. D. Harlan, T. Vought
Professor Emeritus C. L. Salter*
Associate Professor Emeritus G. S. Ludwig*, W. A. Noble, W. A. Schroeder*
Adjunct Professor C. H. Davis, W. R. Elliot, R. B. Jacobson*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master’s thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

• BA in Geography (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography)
  • with emphasis in General Geography (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography-emphasis-general-geography)
  • with emphasis in Geographic Information Sciences (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography-emphasis-geographic-information-sciences)
  • with emphasis in Physical/Environmental (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography-emphasis-physical-environmental)
  • with emphasis in Regional/Cultural (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography-emphasis-regional-cultural)
  • with emphasis in Urban/Population (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ba-geography-emphasis-urbanpopulation)
• Minor in Geography (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/minor-geography)
• Certificate in Geographical Information Science - Interdisciplinary (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/certificate-geographical-information-systems)

The Department of Geography has established the following goals for the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Geography:

• Teach students to think spatially and develop problem solving skills
• Provide an intellectual focus for students seeking a broadly based liberal arts education
• Acquaint students with past and present patterns of landscape development and instill concern for intelligent management of earth’s biophysical resources
•Expose students to contemporary issues of geopolitical and international significance and their role in such problems
• Provide the skills and expertise necessary to master the application of geographic information technologies and analysis of spatial data
• Prepare motivated students for career development and graduate study

Four different emphasis areas allow students to further focus the undergraduate degree program on their own personal interests in geography.

1. Human-Regional-cultural geography helps students develop a fuller sense of geographic analysis and better understanding of the human and physical characteristics of major regions and settlement patterns of the world.
2. Physical-environmental systems emphasize the complex interactions between biophysical systems and human behavior in the areas of geomorphology and biogeography, as well as our role in managing applied environmental problems.
3. Geographic information sciences addresses the variety of technologies revolutionizing geographic analysis such as GIS, GPS, remote sensing, computer assisted cartography and spatial statistics.
4. General geography is designed for the student with broad interests in geography that overlap with other emphasis areas.

For students planning to end their formal education with the bachelor’s degree, a geography major provides marketable skills and the broad perspectives on environment, society and international affairs that enable graduates to move beyond entry-level positions. Geography also provides a sound foundation for students who plan to enter graduate work in a variety of fields, from geography to business, land use planning, law and medicine. Although positions are not often designated with the title of geographer, geography graduates’ employment has grown substantially in private enterprise and in all levels of government in recent years.

The Department offers BA and MA degrees with majors in geography as well as undergraduate and graduate certificates in Geographic Information Science and Geospatial Intelligence. Two minors are also available.

Departmental Honors

The geography honors program requires independent research during the senior year, usually under GEOG 4996H or GEOG 4997H. Consult the geography honors director for further information.

Graduate

• MA in Geography (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/ma-geography)
• Graduate Certificate in Geographical Information Science - Interdisciplinary (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/geography/grad-certif-geographical-information-systems)
College of Arts and Sciences
8 Stewart Hall
573-882-8370
http://www.geog.missouri.edu/

Director of Graduate Studies: Soren Larsen

About Geography

The Department of Geography offers a Master of Arts degree that prepares students for a variety of professions, including careers in academics, research, public service, and the private sector. The MA program has a high success rate of preparing students for doctoral study in top-tier geography departments across the United States.

A primary strength of the department is the blending of major research facilities and opportunities with individual student-faculty interaction to build a strong sense of community. Students interested in questions of human geography, the physical environment, or geographic information sciences will find that the department has facilities and faculty expertise to build a successful plan of study.

Core areas of study in the department include human geography, nature/society relationships, physical-environmental systems, and application of geographic information sciences. The faculty has an active program of research and field work in North America, Middle America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. They pride themselves on a creative instructional and interdisciplinary pattern of activity. The department emphasizes close contact between faculty and graduate students.

Individualized graduate programs allow latitude in areas of specialization such as regional, cultural, and physical geography, as well as geographic information sciences, remote sensing, environmental studies and geographic education. Strong collateral course work in such fields as anthropology, soil and atmospheric science, economics, geology, political science, forestry, computer science and history meets the special interests of many graduate students.

Facilities and Resources

An exceptional departmental collection of reference materials, including maps, journals and books, is available to graduate students in the department’s Wheeler Library and Seminar Room. The holdings of Ellis Library in geography and related fields are extensive and MU’s computer facilities are readily available. In addition, the department is home to the Geographic Resources Center (GRC), the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service and the Spatial Analysis and Modeling teaching laboratory. These facilities serve as an interdisciplinary center for GIS, remote sensing, cartography, computer graphics and digital spatial databases of enormous variety.

Financial Aid from the Program

Some programs require an extra form or statement from those who wish to be considered for internal assistantships, fellowships or other funding packages. Check the program website or ask the program contact for details. In Geography, a total of approximately 6 graduate teaching and research assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis annually. Applicants desiring consideration for one of these positions should indicate this in their application to the department.