



Geography & Geospatial Analysis Minor



Western's program balances traditional, cultural geography with geospatial techniques and technology.

What Is The Western Difference?

Why does the world look the way that it does, and not some other way? Geography seeks to answer this question. Exploring geographic perspectives helps us make sense of complex and often conflicting dynamics between livelihoods locally and globally. Gunnison Valley's unique location offers insights into often clashing livelihoods, and its example means students are able to study the interplay between global and local systems, recognizing the influence of global trends on local spaces.

Western's Geography minor allows students to gain cultural understanding as well as to develop their geospatial analysis skills—meaning it can be combined with a variety of majors and easily tailored to a student's interests. These two focuses allow for individualization and flexibility depending on the student.

QUICK FACTS

A Geography minor will complement other majors, such as Biology, Business, Economics, English, Environment & Sustainability, Geology, History, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology.

Service learning is an important component of several geography courses, and Western's Peace Corps Prep program works closely with the Geography minor.

Western's Geography students are usually successful when continuing their careers, applying to graduate school and obtaining GIS certification.

What Skills Will I Learn?

Geography provides students with another set of skills with which to view the world, broadening their perspectives. Students learn how to:

- Use Geographic Information Systems to analyze spatial patterns of human activity.
- Use maps, photos and satellite images to understand how places came to be the way they are.
- Identify multiple interacting processes, such as the way cattle move or a city's tax policies.
- Recognize overlapping processes from the past and present, such as how a city's layout reflects centuries-old land ownership and the current economy.

What Can I Do With My Degree?

Geography skills allow you to work in a variety of fields, including corporate logistics, city and county planning, the Peace Corps, humanitarian relief and spatial analytics. Many careers, such as wildlife biology, business, anthropology and criminal justice, expect you to have strong geography skills.

Graduates have continued their education at masters programs at University of Missouri St. Louis and University of Nevada Reno. They have become professors and gone on to work as consultants for corporate analysts, at federal agencies, and for environmental non-government organizations.