

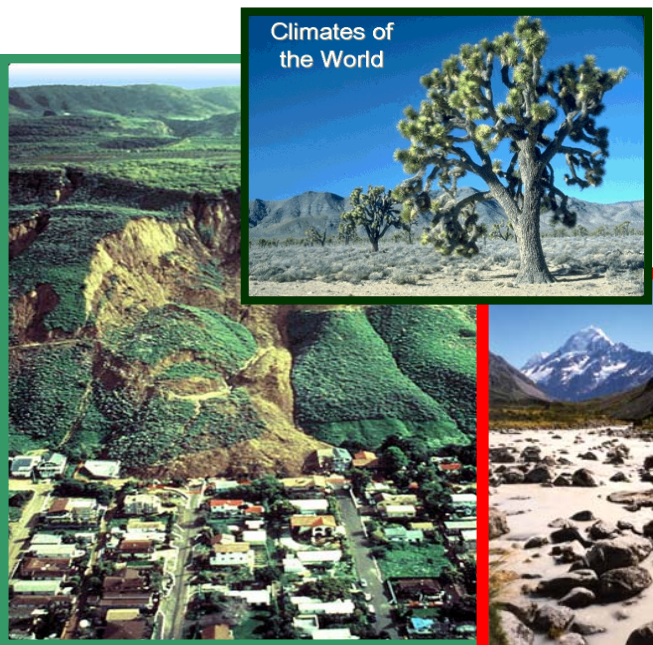


A MAJOR IN GEOGRAPHY

Geography offers a unique perspective on many of today's most important issues--from globalization, international development and ethnic conflict to environmental problems, population growth, and climate change. Its theories and methods provide analytical techniques applicable to a wide range of questions significant to a broad spectrum of occupations.

The Department of Geography provides a balance between an education focusing on contemporary social, political, economic, and environmental issues and training in advanced computer-based techniques. The Department offers courses in **human geography**, **physical geography** and **geospatial computer techniques**.

Human geography is concerned with the spatial dimensions of economic, political, and cultural phenomena; the relation between people and the environment; variations in patterns of resource use; the linkages between rural and urban areas; how inequalities revealed in spatial patterns affect the quality of life; and how the processes of globalization are transforming regions, countries, and localities.

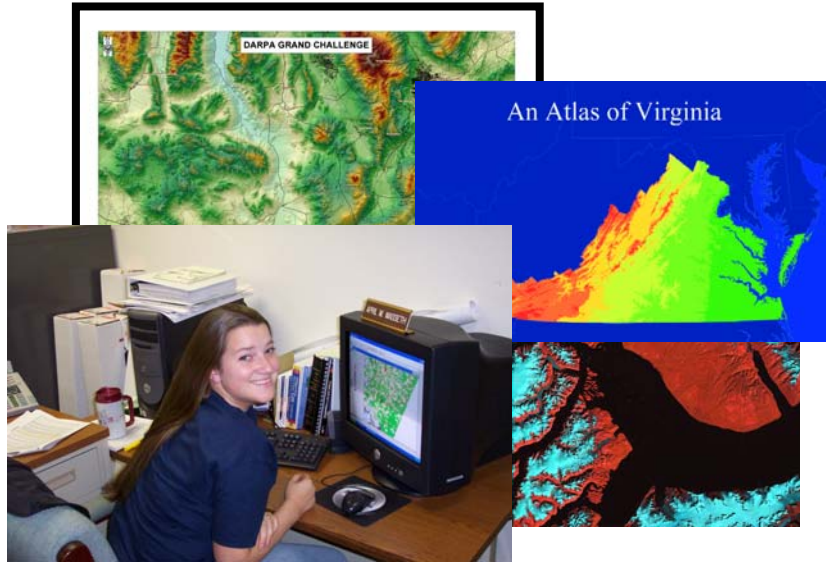


Physical geographers study patterns of climate, land forms, vegetation, soils, and water, and especially the factors and processes that produce those patterns, including human-environment interactions.



Geospatial computer

techniques involve Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), computer mapping, and remote sensing. These technologies have led to significant advances in the ways in which geographic information is collected, stored, mapped, and integrated in database and decision-making systems.



Current students in the Department of Geography have the opportunity to work with several local and county agencies using these geospatial skills to enhance their education and employment prospects.

The Department of Geography has **excellent lab facilities**, including the following:

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) lab
- Remote sensing lab
- Biogeography lab



We offer two options for our majors:

- **Culture, Regions, and International Development**
- **Geospatial and Environmental Analysis**

An education in geography provides **valuable, marketable skills** that are in great demand. Geography students find employment in education, government, and business.

- Those trained in **Human Geography** obtain employment in health care, law enforcement, urban and regional planning, transportation, marketing, real estate, tourism, and international development.
- Those trained in **Physical Geography** forecast the weather, manage land and water resources, develop strategies to maintain and enhance biodiversity, study global warming, and analyze and plan for forests, rangelands, and wetlands.
- **Employment opportunities are especially strong** for students obtaining advanced training in **Geospatial Computer Techniques**, which are used by both human and physical geographers.

Majors in Geography can apply to the Department's **Sidman P. Poole Endowment**, which provides a limited number of scholarships to Geography majors with strong academic records. The Poole Best Incoming Freshman Geography Major Scholarship is awarded to an entering student for the first year of study at Virginia Tech.

The Department of Geography is located in 115 Major Williams Hall. For more information on the Geography major, contact Larry Grossman at geog@vt.edu or 231-7557. We invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.geography.vt.edu>