

# Geography Program

## Department of Geography and Geosciences

### TRACKS

- Climatology
- General Geography
- Geographic Information Science
- Meteorology
- Physical Geography
- Human Geography

### Why Specialize in Geography?

Geography is the science of place and space. Geographers ask where things are located on the surface of the earth, why they are located where they are, how places differ from one another and how people interact with the environment.

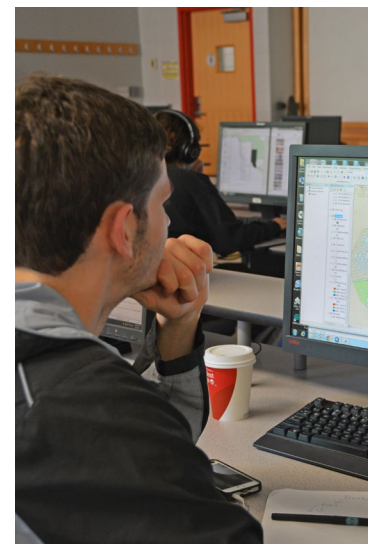
Geographers also study the linkages between human activity and natural systems. Geographers were, in fact, among the first scientists to sound the alarm that human-induced changes to the environment were beginning to threaten the balance of life itself. They are active in the study of global warming, desertification, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, groundwater pollution and flooding. *From the AAG (www.aag.org)*

### About the Program

The geography major is divided into six tracks. All majors complete a set of core courses that provide a foundation for choosing a track.

The **meteorology concentration** is focused on the study of atmospheric processes and is designed for students wishing to pursue a career or graduate school in atmospheric science and/or meteorology. The **climatology track** analyzes the long-term changes in the atmosphere and is designed for students interested in careers and/or graduate school in climatology and/or climate change. Our **geographic information science track** is designed for students whose emphasis is on mapping sciences. The **human geography track** examines the interactions of social systems, including economics, politics and development. The **physical geography track** examines a range of geosciences, including climate, soils and geomorphology. The sixth track is a **general track** in which the student selects advanced geography and geosciences coursework based on their particular interests. Many geography majors are able to complete more than one track in support of their career objectives.

One key feature of our coursework in the geography degree is SU's commitment to experiential studies. Many of the core and elective courses in the geography program include hands-on lab activities and class field trips. The coursework required for this degree provides a solid undergraduate knowledge base



that serves as a strong foundation for students continuing on to graduate studies or a career in geography.

### Career Opportunities

A bachelor's degree in geography provides the academic and technical skill sets to work in a variety of occupations, as well as the potential to pursue graduate degrees in highly competitive programs, often with funded assistantships. Our graduates work in both the public and private sectors, and our department maintains a strong alumni network enabling current students and recent graduates to connect with internships and job opportunities. Our department's alumni work in local, state and federal government for employers – including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Census Bureau and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources – pursuing careers as meteorologists, cartographers, geographic information systems (GIS) analysts, remote sensing analysts

and water resource managers. Alumni occupy similar positions in the private sector with employers including The Weather Channel and local television stations for broadcast meteorology, as well as engineering and market research firms. Our department focuses on undergraduate student success and our faculty's open door policy and dedicated computer lab enable our majors to acquire the skills necessary to obtain jobs in our field following graduation with their Bachelor of Science.



*“Geography is both science and art.”*

*– H.C. Darby, 1962*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Geography Program, please contact:

**geography@salisbury.edu**  
**410-543-6460**

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