

# GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES

## College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

1149 LeFrak Hall  
 Phone: 301-405-4073  
[geog-advise@umd.edu](mailto:geog-advise@umd.edu)  
<http://geog.umd.edu>

Vision: To lead the development of academic, educational, and research directions of human and natural systems, land cover/and land use change and geospatial information science, harnessing the integrative nature of geographic science to answer fundamental questions of global importance.

## PROGRAMS

### Major

- Geographical Sciences Major (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/geographical-sciences/geographical-sciences-major/>)

### Minors

- Geographic Information Science Minor (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/geographical-sciences/geographic-information-science-minor/>)
- Remote Sensing of Environmental Change Minor (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/geographical-sciences/remote-sensing-environmental-change-minor/>)

## ADVISING

Advising is mandatory for students each semester. The undergraduate advising office is located at 1149 LeFrak Hall. If you can, please email before you visit us since the schedule can change day to day. We can always be reached via email at [geog-advise@umd.edu](mailto:geog-advise@umd.edu) or voicemail at 301-405-4073.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Fieldwork Opportunities

<https://marylandglobal.umd.edu/global-learning-all/study-abroad> (<https://marylandglobal.umd.edu/global-learning-all/study-abroad/>)d (<https://marylandglobal.umd.edu/global-learning-all/study-abroad/>)

#### GEOG418 (Summer/Fall): Field and Laboratory Techniques in Environmental Science

Applied introduction to field methods. This class is built around a two week field trip (mid-August) with a base camp in the headwaters of the Potomac River in the mountains of West Virginia. During the camp the following topics are covered: GPS (global positions system), stream hydrology measurements, vegetation classification and ordination, micrometeorological measurements, soils, water quality, remote sensing and GIS, local environmental issues, geomorphology and paleohistory, and natural and cultural history.

### Internships

Undergraduate Internship ([https://geog.umd.edu/sites/geog.umd.edu/files/Internship%20Paperwork\\_2024.pdf](https://geog.umd.edu/sites/geog.umd.edu/files/Internship%20Paperwork_2024.pdf)) Program

([https://geog.umd.edu/sites/geog.umd.edu/files/Internship%20Paperwork\\_2024.pdf](https://geog.umd.edu/sites/geog.umd.edu/files/Internship%20Paperwork_2024.pdf))

The Department of Geographical Sciences offers a one-semester internship program for undergraduates. Students can earn a total of three credits. Students are responsible for finding their own internships and can pursue a wide variety of opportunities in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Internships may be on- or off-campus, paid or unpaid.

The department collaborates with the Feller Center Career Planning team to host an annual career fair that brings together recruiters from area agencies, all levels of government (local, county, municipal, and federal), consulting firms, GIS organizations, and other companies specializing in data management and analysis. Additional internship opportunities can be found at the GEO Terps Blog (<https://blog.umd.edu/geoterps/>).

#### Internship Requirements

- Junior or senior with a minimum of 70 credits
- 2.5 GPA overall

#### Internship Partners

- NASA Develop
- USDA
- Campus GIS - Facilities Management
- NOAA
- ESRI
- START
- Urban Resources Initiative
- The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

## Combined BS/MS Program

<http://geog.umd.edu/undergraduate/combined-bsms-program/>

The Department of Geographical Sciences' Combined, Five Year BS/MS Program is an opportunity for top-achieving undergraduate students to enhance their academic portfolio, and best prepare to enter the workforce or a doctoral program. This balanced research and academic program includes undergraduate and graduate coursework and a student-designed applied research project. Students who complete all program requirements will leave the University of Maryland after five years with a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geographical Sciences and a Master of Science (MS) in Geographical Sciences.

## Student Societies and Professional Organizations

### Geography Club

Geography Club is back and better than ever! Join undergrads and grad students for cultural potlucks, international movies, charity events and exploratory trips around the DC metropolitan area!

- Contact the Geography Club at [geogclubumd@gmail.com](mailto:geogclubumd@gmail.com) for more information.
- <https://geog.umd.edu/undergraduate/geography-club> (<https://geog.umd.edu/undergraduate/geography-club/>)

### Gamma Theta Upsilon: The Geography Honor Society

<https://geog.umd.edu/associations> (<https://geog.umd.edu/associations/>)

GTU is an international honor society in geography that aims to further professional interest in Geography, strengthen student and professional training and encourage student research. Membership is earned through superior scholarship and therefore it is an honor and a professional distinction.

Members must be in their 4th semester of study, working towards a Geographical Sciences or related degree, have a minimum 3.3 GPA cumulative and in all Geographical Sciences classes and attend meetings and events.

## The Association of American Geographers

<http://aag.org>

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) is a nonprofit scientific and educational society founded in 1904. For 100 years the AAG has contributed to the advancement of geography. Its members from more than 60 countries share interests in the theory, methods, and practice of geography, which they cultivate through the AAG's Annual Meeting, two scholarly journals (Annals of the Association of American Geographers and The Professional Geographer), and the monthly AAG Newsletter.

### Scholarships and Financial Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: <http://financialaid.umd.edu>.

## Awards and Recognition

- James R. Anderson Award For Undergraduate Excellence
- Robert A. Harper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research and Writing
- Undergraduate Research Symposium Award
- Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Award

## Academic Programs and Departmental Facilities

The Geographical Science Department has two 25-seat computer teaching laboratories that are used in undergraduate coursework, particularly in GIS/Remote Sensing courses. There are different types of equipment for field research and remote sensing, and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) are also available.

## Outreach

The High School Hub compiles GEOG's programs that are designed to ignite students' passion for geographical sciences and cultivate a deeper understanding of geographers' role in mitigating climate change, tracking deforestation and biodiversity loss, addressing food security, combating natural disasters and other important issues for Earth and humanity.

High School Hub (<https://geog.umd.edu/high-school-hub/overview/>)

High School Internship Program (HIP) (<https://geog.umd.edu/high-school-hub/high-school-internship-program-hip/>)

Request a Geographer (<https://geog.umd.edu/high-school-hub/request-geographer/>)

GIS Day (<https://geog.umd.edu/high-school-hub/gis-day/>)