

GEOGRAPHY

"My geography professors cultivated my skill development while teaching the importance of good communication, cultural literacy and empathy. It feels so good knowing that I am making a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable people."

– Yomayra Burgos, B.A. in Geography, Global Studies, 2019



The Department of Geography offers a comprehensive program of studying leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in geography or the Bachelor of Science degree in environmental and spatial sciences. Graduates of the department's programs have completed a liberal arts education that serves as the foundation for further academic study in disciplines addressing geographic, environmental, sustainability and international issues or for professional fields such as environmental science, geospatial technology, public policy, and environmental or sustainability management.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPATIAL SCIENCES

Students are prepared for careers in environmental science with advanced training in geospatial technology.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN GEOGRAPHY

Students many choose between four concentrations: Environmental Studies, Geospatial Applications, Global Studies and Sustainability Studies. Students in the B.A. program will also select a minor program of study outside the department.

Environmental Studies: emphasizing physical geography and environmental resources management.

Geospatial Applications: emphasizing technical skills in geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, map use and interpretation, cartography and statistical analysis.

Global Studies: emphasizing international and regional human geography. Regional emphases in the department include Latin America, Africa, Europe and Canada in addition to the United States.

Sustainability Studies: emphasizing economic and social well-being while protecting the integrity of Earth's living systems.

For those pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.E.) with a major in Secondary Education Social Studies, students may elect a concentration in geography.

MINOR

The Department of Geography offers five minors: Environmental Studies, Geospatial Applications, Global Studies, Sustainability Studies and General Geography.

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is unique in bridging the social sciences and the natural sciences. Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth as well as human activity and how it relates spatially to the environment in which we live. Geographers use geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS) and online mapping as tools for increasing our understanding of the world.

OPPORTUNITIES

Faculty members are actively engaged in community-based research. Recent opportunities have included mapping stormwater infrastructure and detecting illicit discharges in central Lancaster County, mapping and measuring the reflectivity of street signs for local municipalities, developing a GIS of Millersville University, crime analysis in the city of Lancaster and monitoring water quality in local streams and rivers. The Department of Geography has a long history of engaging students in high-impact practices and is committed to working with students to develop unique research and service opportunities that enhance their academic program.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

In 2023, Annisa Saengdara was awarded the National Science Foundation Research for Undergraduates Award for "Interdisciplinary Problem Solving in Human-Dominated Wetlands." Her educational experience as a B.S. in environmental and spatial sciences major prepared her for her role in the Geospatial Patterns and Scaling research cluster to examine wetlands restoration.



INTERNSHIPS

Some internships that students have held:

- Church World Service – *Refugee Services Associate*
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – *State Park Intern*
- Chester County GIS Department – *GIS Analyst*
- City of Lancaster – *Planning Intern*
- Earth Engineering, Inc. – *Field Technician*
- Lancaster County Parks Department – *Environmental Educator*
- Lancaster Farmland Trust – *Land Preservationist*

CLUBS

Millersville University Geography Club: The Geography Club is open to any Millersville University student with an interest in geography and the environment. Throughout the semester, students participate in various activities, events and serve the community. The Geography Club has recently attended and participated in the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, community cleanup days, local geocaching trips and whitewater rafting. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, network, have fun, learn and explore!

FACILITIES

The Geo-Graphics Laboratory and Environmental Geography Laboratory are the teaching classrooms for geospatial-techniques and methods-based courses. The labs support faculty research, faculty-mentored student research, as well as contracted research. The Geo-Graphics Laboratory functions as a dedicated space for students in the department's programs and courses. Group and individual tutoring are offered weekly.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available exclusively for students pursuing geography as a major.

Dr. Joseph W. Glass Geography Scholarship: For a junior or senior geography student with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.

Miller-Averett Geography Scholarship: For a full-time junior or senior geography major, with preference to a student in environmental science and a desire to hold a professional position that will advance work on the impacts of and/or adaptation to climate change. The recipient must be in good academic standing, with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.

Robert and Darlene Ford Scholarship: For a geography major who has completed 75 credit hours at Millersville University prior to the semester when the award is given. The student must have an overall GPA of 3.2. In addition to the GPA threshold, extracurricular involvement is considered in the decision.

Predmore-Cornogg Scholarship: For a junior or senior geography major who demonstrates a strong commitment to geography. The student must be in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need.

Geography Faculty Award: Given to a geography major who has graduated with honors.

Delaware Valley Geographical Association (DVGA) Award: Given to a geography major who has demonstrated a commitment to the discipline of geography. In deciding this award, the faculty consider GPA, class participation and any other relevant extracurricular activities.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"The Millersville University Department of Geography provides students with an invaluable education that prepares them to achieve success in various careers. The department showcases genuine care and support for students on their academic and professional journey. The faculty are dedicated and passionate about sharing their expertise and knowledge about the vast field of geography and how it can be used to address complex challenges facing our world.

"During my time at Millersville, the Department of Geography gave me the knowledge and tools to solve complex problems through an interdisciplinary approach. While concentrating in environmental studies, I was still exposed to the economic, political and physical science aspects of sustainability, which has allowed me to thrive in my current role as a sustainability coordinator for a private corporation. The curriculum also developed key skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving and effective communication – all crucial to my work in sustainability."

Andrew Long, B.A. in Geography,
Environmental Studies, 2023