Geography focuses on events related to the surface of the earth; ‘where’ things are located, and ‘why’ they are there. Geographic study centers on the following themes:

- Defining processes and finding meaning in regions and places
- Understanding and explaining diffusion across the earth’s surface
- Knowing the importance of the interaction between people and the land
- Perceiving peoples’ attitudes toward the inhabited landscape

As a geographer, you will study these themes to understand past and present mapped patterns of environment and culture and to plan for future redistributions and developments. Some geography courses are classified as natural science, and are directly related to STEM approaches, because they focus on the study of the physical environment and the governing laws of nature. Other geography courses are grouped as social sciences or even humanities.

Majors: Bachelor of Arts degree in geography (ICP) in Spatial Information Systems

Minors: General Geography, Environmental Geography, Human Geography, Regional Geography, Geographic Information Science

Certificates: Geographic Information Science

Employment Opportunities
A degree with a major in geography can lead to many career opportunities, including job opportunities available at all levels of local, state and national government as well as in the private sector:

- Geospatial Sciences
  Geographers use numerous applications of geospatial technology. Geographic information science (GIS) involves computer mapping and analysis of spatial data. The study of global positioning systems (GPS) involves how satellites are used in precise location on the earth’s surface. Remote sensing is the analysis of the earth’s surface through aerial photography or satellite imagery.

- Cartography
  Geographers work as cartographers (map makers) in business, government, and industry. They compile, research, design, and edit both general purpose and thematic maps using a variety of sophisticated techniques.

- Teaching
  There is a demand for teachers of geography and earth science at the elementary and secondary level. Teaching in higher education requires at least an M.A., and usually a Ph.D.

- Planning and Economic Development
  Geographers work for planning agencies in both public and private sector firms. Concerns include land use, zoning, taxation, environmental impact, economic development, census, transportation, and the provision of health care and other social services.

- Location Analysis and Marketing
  Some geographers are trained to evaluate sites for suitability to accommodate new businesses. Such businesses might include shopping centers, fast food franchises, hospitals, industrial plants, or waste disposal sites.

- Tourism
  Geographers work to evaluate and market tourism sites and programs. Career opportunities are found in the travel industry and public tourism development agencies.

- International Affairs and Trade
  Geographers who develop an expertise in foreign areas work as regional experts for businesses and government. The intelligence sector employs a large number of geographers.

- Environmental and Atmospheric Studies
  Geographers trained in the physical realm work in positions related to environmental concerns. Work may include environmental impact studies, hazard assessment, effects of climate change on agriculture, or the study of acid rain.

Geographers pursue various specializations. Physical geographers study climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms. Economic, cultural and political geographers investigate...
such problems as settlement, agricultural land use, regional perceptions, or boundary disputes. Medical and environmental geographers bridge the physical and cultural in their studies. Geographers may study the meaning of historical as well as contemporary issues, while some forecast the future by helping to plan cities and regions, shaping the geography of tomorrow.

The Department of Geology offers specializations in cartography, geospatial information technologies, meteorology, and environmental, regional, and cultural geography.

**Degree Options**
The Department of Geography at Youngstown State University offers

- A Bachelor of Arts degree in geography
- An individualized curriculum program (ICP) in spatial information systems
- A certificate program in geographic information science
- Five distinct minors

**B.A. in Geography**

*Required courses:*
- Physical Geography
- Human Geography or Regional Geography
- Map Interpretation or Geospatial Foundations

*One course from:*
- Geography of South America
- Geography of Middle America
- Geography of the United States
- Geography of Ohio
- Geography of Europe
- Topics in Regional Geography

*Two courses from:*
- GIS 1/GIS 2
- Remote Sensing 1
- Remote Sensing 2
- GPS and GIS
- 3D GIS
- Field Methods

*Electives:*
- 15 hours of geography, 12 of which must be upper-division

**The Spatial Information Systems ICP**
The SIS ICP is essentially a double major in geography and CSIS that mixes geospatial techniques with computer science graphics capabilities.

---

**Undergraduate Certificate in GIScience**

**Minors**
- General Geography
- Environmental Geography
- Human Geography
- Regional Geography
- Geographic Information Science

**Faculty**
The Department of Geography full-time faculty all hold doctoral degrees from the following institutions: Michigan State University (Shellito & Buckler), University of Kansas (Campbell & Shaklee), Texas State University-San Marcos (Cerney), and the University of Maryland (Pugh).

**Accreditation**
Youngstown State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association.

**Facilities**
YSU’s Department of Geography is housed in the Phelps Building. Included are a GIScience lab with 24 graphics intensive computers, a multi-use lab with 18 computers used for our weather lab course, a GeoWall 3D lab and recruitment center, and a student research lab.

The Department of Geography is a depository for Ohio and Pennsylvania U.S.G.S. topographic maps. More than 20,000 maps filed in the library give access to large scale (small area) coverage of most parts of the world.

**Outside the Classroom**
The Department of Geography supports internships for credit at several local government agencies, at YSU’s Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and in the private sector. The Department of Geography offers an annual field experience at San Salvador Island in the Bahamas, in addition to other international field courses offered periodically.

Senior geography majors with excellent academic records may be employed as research assistants through the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Students might also work in the department as map librarians or lab assistants.