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/)

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 or voicemail at 301-405-4073.

OPPORTUNITIES

Fieldwork Opportunities

http://geog.umd.edu/content/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 covers: 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

http://geog.umd.edu/content/internship-program/

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.

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 for more information.
• http://geog.umd.edu/content/clubs-and-associations/

Gamma Theta Upsilon: The Geography Honor Society

http://geog.umd.edu/undergraduate/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.

The Sustainability Club
The Department of Geographical Sciences’ sustainability club, otherwise
known as the Geography Sustainability Task Force (GSTF), seeks
to improve the efficiency of our consumption and improve working
conditions while at the same time reducing our environmental footprint.
We have made small strides such as changing paper usage and
reducing power consumption in computer labs, but continue to work
on large issues of departmental and building-wide lighting, water, and
waste. Through increased education, awareness, and involvement we
look forward to big changes in 2012 and beyond. The GSTF has, and
continues to, consult and work with the University of Maryland Office of
Sustainability (http://sustainability.umd.edu). Future meetings will be
posted here and announced through internal departmental emails.

- Additional information can be obtained from Evan Ellicott
  (ellicott@umd.edu).
- http://geog.umd.edu/content/clubs-and-associations/

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.