

Georgia College to offer geography degree

Students with a passion to study the earth and its land, features, inhabitants and phenomena now can earn a degree in geography at Georgia College

A Bachelor of Science degree in geography is long overdue, according to Dr. Bob Wilson, interim chair of the History, Geography and Philosophy Department.

"Geographers, by the very nature of the discipline, unite science and the humanities in ways that few scholars do," Wilson said. "The concerns that geographers address--the environment and climate change; river systems and the diminishing water resources; human ethnography and demography--all these studies impact policy decisions in critical ways. With the university's emphasis on an internationally focused curriculum, geography becomes a disciplinary bedrock."

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents in January approved geography as a major at Georgia College.

The degree should be available to students by the end of 2010 Spring semester. The university will recruit majors through the summer to begin 2010 Fall semester with a full cohort of geography majors, according to Dr. Doug Oetter, associate professor of geography.

The geography degree will focus primarily on global connections and local commitments and serve the mission of Georgia College by promoting global awareness and international connections, Oetter said.

"We will encourage our students to travel to other countries and continents, and then bring back with them ideas on how to improve living conditions in the rural South," Oetter said. "There are countless opportunities for geographers in Middle Georgia, from mapping services and site assessment to rural development and international trade. Georgia College will help grow and build our regional economy through geography graduates."

The degree will open up many avenues for cooperative research projects between Georgia College and local economic and environmental organizations.

"We strongly encourage internships for our students to prepare them for post-graduate opportunities," Oetter said, "and to help improve our local community."

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

U.S. Geological Survey World Wide Web Information

Fact Sheet

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) invites you to explore an earth science virtual library of digital information, publications, and data. The USGS Internet World Wide Web sites offer an array of information that reflects scientific research and monitoring programs conducted in the areas of natural hazards, environmental resources, and cartography. This list provides gateways to access a cross section of the digital information on the USGS World Wide Web sites.

World Wide Web Sites

Primary Sites

U.S. Geological Survey Home Page
<http://www.usgs.gov/>

Biological Resources Division Home Page
<http://www.nbs.gov/>

Geologic Information Home Page
<http://geology.usgs.gov/>

National Mapping Information Home Page
<http://mapping.usgs.gov/>

Water Resources Information Home Page
<http://water.usgs.gov/>

Data and Information Sites

Biological Resources National Programs
http://www.nbs.gov/pub_aff/natprog.html

Cascades Volcano Observatory
<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/>

Current Streamflow Conditions
<http://water.usgs.gov/public/realtime.html>

Data Available from EROS Data Center

<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/doc/edchome/datasets/edcdata.html>

Declassified Intelligence Satellite Photographs
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/glis/hyper/guide/disp>

Earthquake Information
<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/>

Earth Science Information Center (ESIC)
<http://mapping.usgs.gov/esic>

EROS Data Center Home Page
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/>

Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)
<http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/>

Geologic Inquiries
<http://geology.usgs.gov/inquiries.html>

Global Land Information System (GLIS)
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/glis/glis.html>

Historical Streamflow
<http://water.usgs.gov/swf/>

Minerals Information
<http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, USGS Node
<http://nsdi.usgs.gov/nsdi/>

National Marine and Coastal Geology Program
<http://marine.usgs.gov/>

National Water Conditions
<http://water.usgs.gov/nwc/>

National Water-Quality Assessment Program
http://wwwrvares.er.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa_home.html

US GeoData—File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Access
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/doc/edchome/ndcdb/ndcdb.html>

USGS by Theme—Environment, Resources, Hazards, Information Management
<http://www.usgs.gov/themes/>

USGS Fact Sheets
<http://water.usgs.gov/public/wid/indexlist.html>

USGS State Representatives
<http://water.usgs.gov/public/wrd011.html>

Water Use Data
<http://water.usgs.gov/public/watuse/>

Other Sites

Earthshots: Satellite Images of Environmental Change
<http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/Earthshots/>

Technology Transfer Information
<http://www.usgs.gov/tech-transfer/>

The Learning Web: K-12 Education
<http://www.usgs.gov/education/>

Water Education Posters
<http://water.usgs.gov/public/outreach/OutReach.html>

Additional Information

For information on other USGS products and services call 1-800-USA-MAPS, e-mail: esicmail@usgs.gov, or fax 703-648-5548.

Receive information from the EARTHFAX fax-on-demand system, which is available 24 hours a day at 703-648-4888.