Department of Geography and Planning
(http://www.gvsu.edu/geography)

Geography is about understanding people and the environment, space, place, and patterns—and processes that occur over space and time. It is the most international area of study and the original “global study.” Geographers study where phenomena are located, how they got there, where they are going in the future, and why.

City and Regional Planning (Urban Planning) combines skills and content from geography and other physical and social sciences to develop policies and land use designs that help communities manage the built and natural environment. Our planning courses explore “best practices” around the world in transportation infrastructure, main street revitalization, watershed protection, fair housing opportunities and more.

The Geography and Planning program at GVSU is very research-oriented and provides the student with the hard skills and content knowledge necessary to get a well-paying and rewarding job with the B.S. degree. Our majors are very competitive for admission to graduate school and have a competitive edge for paid graduate research assistantships.

Department specializations
- Topical areas of study: globalization, international development, the environment, land use and land use change, natural resource conservation, and regional and global studies (Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, the Americas).
- City and Regional Planning: concentration in the major, a minor, as well as a Certificate in Sustainable Planning.
- Geographic Methods: geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, cartography, and spatial statistics. Concentration in the major, a minor, and a Certificate in GIS.
- Environmental Geography: concentration in the major and an Environmental Studies minor.
- Global and Regional Studies: concentration in the major, combined with expertise in a foreign language.
- Geography Education: minor at the secondary level, Geography concentration in Social Studies major.

CHOICE OF CONCENTRATION(S) AND TOOLS

CORE 1
Introduction to the World
- GPHY20 Cultural Geography
- GPHY100 Physical Geography

Requirements
- Minimum of 36 credit hours
- Core 1 and 2
- Choice of concentration (or mix)
- Choice of degree, BA or BS

Dedicated faculty
- The development of our students as professionals is our primary goal.
- We excel at providing students opportunities to conduct research and acquire analytical skills. Geographic research skills will greatly improve prospects for meaningful and very well paid employment and/or graduate school.
- We offer a wide variety of research methods courses, strongly encourage students to present their work at scholarly conferences, and mentor them at every level for success.

Opportunities to be involved
- Association of Student Geographers (ASG). An active and engaged student group, ASG is involved in environmental action, professional development, scholarly travel.
- Urban Planning Association (UPA). UPA is involved in responsible urban planning, professional development, scholarly travel, and organizes planning events of interest to all.
- Gamma Theta Epsilon (GTE). Geography Honor Society.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL STUDIES
Careers: Area Analyst, Area Specialist, Intelligence Analyst

African Studies
- GPHY 351 Geography of Africa
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in African HST and/or PLS

East Asian Studies
- GPHY 354 Geography of Asia
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in Asian HST and/or PLS

Latin American Studies
- GPHY 356 Geography of Latin America
- GPHY 361 Historical Geography of the Amazon
- Plus a minimum of 3 credits in Latin American HST and/or PLS

European Studies
- GPHY 356 Geography of Europe
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in European HST and/or PLS

Middle East Studies
- GPHY 355 Geography of N. Africa & SW Asia (Middle East)
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in Middle East HST and/or PLS

North American Studies
- GPHY 353 Geography of North America
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in North American HST and/or PLS

Russian Studies
- GPHY 350 Geography of Russia and Eurasian Republics
- Plus a minimum of 6 credits in Russian HST and/or PLS

CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING
Careers: GIS Analyst, Urban Planner, Cartographer, Environmental Analyst, Intelligence Analyst, Researcher

- GPHY 305 Introduction to City and Regional Planning
- GPHY 310 Land Use Planning
- GPHY 312 Environmental Planning
- GPHY 314 Transportation Planning

Electives
- GPHY 324 Urbanization
- GPHY/MTTP 355 GIS for Economic & Business Decision Making
- GPHY 385 Economic Geography of the U.S.
- GPHY 396 Landscape Analysis
- EDC 351 Urban Sociology
- PAK 307 Local Politics and Administration
- ECO 396 Urban and Real Estate Economics
- ECO 436 Real Estate Economics
- Certificate in Sustainable Planning option
- Internship

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY
Careers: Environmental Analyst, Researcher

- GPHY 361 Historical Geography of the Amazon
- GPHY 362 Geography of World Agriculture & Farmers
- GPHY 363 World Forests and Their Use
- GPHY/ENVS 410 Landscape Analysis
- GPHY/ENVS 412 Global Environmental Change

Electives
- ECO 345 Environmental and Resource Conservation
- GEO 112 Earth History
- GEO 320 Geomorphology
- NMR 240 Principles of Climatology
- Internship option

CHOICE OF DEGREE²
Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Degree Sequence
- 101 Elementary
- 102 Elementary
- 201 Intermediate

Bachelor of Science (BS)
Degree Sequence
- STA 215 Introduction to Applied Statistics
- GPHY 310 Methods in Geography and Planning
- A third, research-oriented course to be selected from GPHY 407, 410, 412, 470, 485, or STA 216.

CORE 2
Research Methods and Senior Thesis
GPHY 303 Research Methods in Geography and Planning
GPHY 495 Senior Thesis

GIJanade.png

Remote Sensing and Image Processing
- GPHY 370 Introduction to Remote Sensing
- GPHY 470 Digital Image Processing

Other
- GPHY 425 Field Research Project
- GIS Certificate option
- Internship option

GRADUATION

2. For students interested in the “Regional Analyst/Specialist” designation in the department, a minimum of 37 hours in Geography are required. Core 1 and 2, 2 Hours of Area Studies, 16 Hours of Geographic Methods (Geospatial technologies), plus a minimum of 4 semesters of language study. For this concentration it is strongly recommended that the student complete at least one semester of study in a country where the target language is spoken. See a Geography and Planning faculty member for specifics.

3. For GVSU does not offer any African language the student may take Arabic or French. We prefer, however, that this student study a Sub-Saharan African language. Intensive summer courses in Sub-Saharan African languages are available in the U.S. Study abroad is strongly recommended.

Language tool options
Study abroad options
International internship and research options

Contact us
Phone: (616) 257-4576 Fax: (616) 257-5576
www.gvsu.edu/geography