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The Exploratory Exposé

The Exploratory Newsletter

Being an Exploratory Student allows you to consider all your options and learn about GVSU's various majors before choosing your own path. Our general education curriculum is designed to provide you exposure to a sampling of academic areas while earning credit. GV also provides several other resources to help you discover your path which will be highlighted every month in this Exploratory Newsletter. Read on to learn more, and reach out if you need to!



Major Landing:
Geography &
Sustainable Planning



Feature from *the Amazon*

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FACULTY EDITION

How would you describe the Geography & Sustainable Planning Major?

Sustainable planning is a new and growing field that many firms, communities, and governments need. Geography is the study of how humans interact with the environment, and that environment can be an urban environment (hospital complex or transportation networks, housing, economies) or natural (rainforests, water bodies, climate change).



What topics would I be studying in this major?

You will learn about people-environment relationships across space and time. You will have the opportunity to learn how to manage, to study and to understand the space around us from using different perspectives at many different scales. Some specific topics that are included throughout the program are highlighted below!

TOPICS

Sustainability, interdisciplinarity, scientific methods, “space/place/scale”, built environment, social equity

What made you pick a career path in Geography

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& Sustainable Planning?

It is important to know that not all faculty within the GVSU Geography Department work as geographers, this is normal for a geography department. There are many career options for this field, and they are highlighted below!

Learn what is keeping your faculty in the field!

“I teach sustainable planning because changing the way we build cities is the easiest way to get more fairness in society.”

“I chose this career path because of career flexibility. I have worked in the private sector, public sector, and now higher education.”

“I enjoy international work, especially with indigenous and disadvantaged societies.”

“I have a chance to do conservation and resource management work.”

What are some common careers you can get with a degree in Geography & Sustainable Planning?

Many geographers work for private companies in engineering, marketing, healthcare, planning, development, and natural resource management. We also work for government agencies at local, state, and federal levels, and in many areas of government, including equity and inclusion, economic growth, transportation planning, urban renewal, hurricane and disaster management, national security, and disease control. We do a lot of international work for development and conservation institutions and companies.



CAREER OPTIONS

- Land Economist, Market researcher, & Geospatial Analyst,
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst, & Geophysical Data Technicians
- Climate Change Analysts, Environmental Restoration Planners, Environmental Analyst, & Location Decision/Spatial Analyst

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- Government Agencies & Disaster Management
- Teacher, Non-Profit Advocacy, Public Administration, & International Work

What are some out of the classroom experiences you can get with Geography & Sustainable Planning?

Some out of the classroom experiences would include site visits where we look at the city from the ground level and critique the social implications of the design. There is variety in classes as well as internships, giving students the opportunity to explore. Community work is also an experience that students are able to partake in, including farm-based visits and projects. There is also a focus on research with specific concentrations in intercultural, environmental, social justice, and economics. Lastly, there are a variety of study abroad options available, with one being a Summer Study Abroad in the Netherlands.



What is something that makes Geography & Sustainable Planning stand out?

There are countless topics that are represented in a spatial/environmental context using a digital cartography (computer mapping). Our majors have skills and certificates in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which is computer mapping, making maps with all types of data and information. This skill is in a huge demand. There is a shortage of people with these skills in the USA. We also gain skills in creating and interpreting satellite images (remote sensing).

Any additional information?

Here are some additional tools to give you an overall view of what we have to offer, as well as what is in the field!

- Learn about various job opportunities from the [American Association of Geographers](#) as well as the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

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Events

Click on each event to learn more!

Simple Study Strategies Workshop

10/06/2022

Virtual

12-1 pm (EST)



UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER STUDENT AFFAIRS

MENTAL HEALTH

October 6, 2022

SCREENING DAYS



STUDY ABROAD

130 Lake Ontario Hall

5-6pm

10/12 | 10/19 | 10/26

1st Step Meetings

Women and the Legal Profession

Four Grand Valley alumnae, all distinguishing themselves in the practice of law, return to GVSU to speak to their experiences and interests as lawyers

The L.V. Eberhard Center

October 13, 2022

12-115pm



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH CAMPUS PROGRAM FAIRS

Come explore the undergraduate and graduate programs within the College of Health Professions & Kirkhof College of Nursing

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 | 4-6pm

DCIH ROOM 102

333 Michigan Street Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Stress Management Workshop

10/19/2022

Virtual

1-2 pm (EST)



GVSU Career and Internship Fair

Tuesday, October 11th

1-5pm

DeVos Place Convention Center

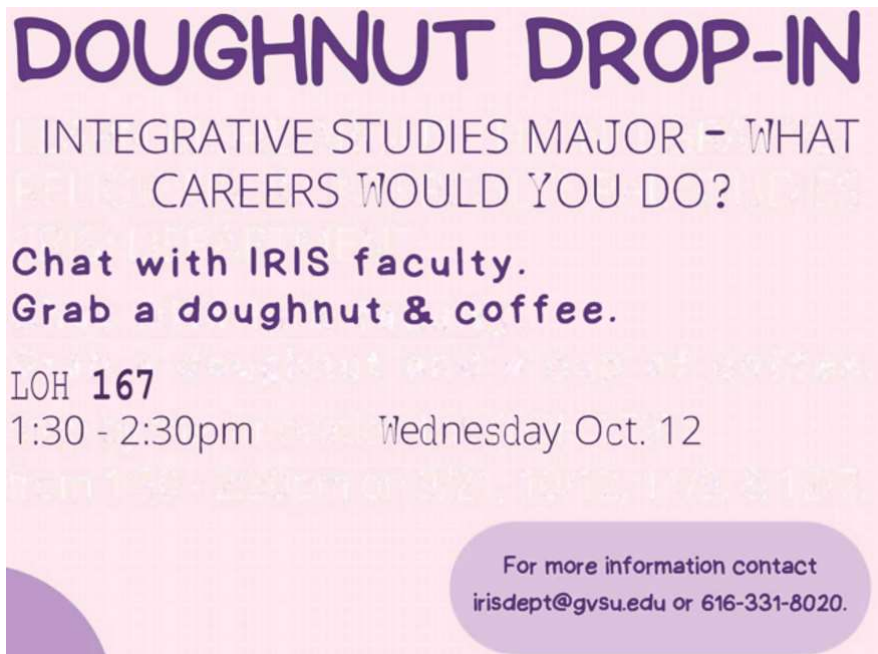
303 Monroe Ave NW, Downtown Grand Rapids

The Career Fair is an excellent opportunity for exploratory students to kick off career exploration by meeting employers and learning more about different industries. This is a great chance to make connections for future internships or jobs! How to prepare:

- Register for the Career and Internship Fair on [Handshake](#)
- Drop into [CareerLab](#) to create or update your resume
- Plan to dress for success
- Practice professional etiquette by creating a [30-second introduction speech](#) about yourself

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Check out the Career Center's [self-guided career exploration](#) resources for more information on finding your career path!



DOUGHNUT DROP-IN
INTEGRATIVE STUDIES MAJOR - WHAT
CAREERS WOULD YOU DO?
Chat with IRIS faculty.
Grab a doughnut & coffee.
LOH 167
1:30 - 2:30pm Wednesday Oct. 12
For more information contact
irisdept@gvsu.edu or 616-331-8020.



Study Abroad Fair
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
2250 Kirkhof Center
(Grand River Room)
10am-3pm
www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad

Resources

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Join a Career Community!

The Career Communities are a way for you to connect with fellow students, faculty, career advisors, employers and career content related to different industry areas. We encourage you to explore the 6 career community options and recommend joining as many as you'd like. By joining a career community you will receive direct communication regarding job & internship postings, events, and specific resources to help you explore the industry area(s) you are interested in. Click on the categories below to learn more and join today!



**Human & Public
Service**



**Communication &
The Arts**



Healthcare



**Business &
Entrepreneurship**



STEM



Education

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Have you considered GV's over 300 clubs? Finding interests through clubs is a great way to explore possible majors. [Lakerlink](#) is your way to connect to organizations.

Every Exploratory Student is assigned an Academic Advisor who will:

- Guide you to resources and tools to make an informed major and career decision
- Help you find courses that will include general education requirements and exploration
- Interpret university policies, procedures, and degree requirements.
- Refer you to campus-wide academic support resources such as tutoring and study skills

[Schedule with an Exploratory Advisor](#)

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