

# What Can I Do with a Major in Geography



## OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

At the undergraduate level, Concordia University's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment offers Honours, Specialization, and Major programs leading to a BA in Human Environment. As well, it offers a BSc Honours in Environmental Science and a BSc Specialization in Environmental Science and Minors in both Human Environment and Environmental Geography. It also offers a BSc Major in Environmental Geography. A Master of/Magisteriate in Science (Geography, Urban and Environment Studies), Masters Program in Environmental Assessment (EA) as well as a Diploma in Environmental Assessment (DEA) are offered at the graduate level. The latest information on programs and course descriptions, as well as a listing of faculty and their research interests, are available on the Department's web site at <http://www.gpe.concordia.ca>.

### CELEBRATED GEOGRAPHY MAJORS

Pierre Camu. **Canadian.** Former President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority  
Moir Dunbar. Pioneer of Arctic Sea-Ice Research  
F. Kenneth Hare. Internationally Known Environmentalist and Meteorologist  
Michael Jordan. Retired American Basketball Player  
Roger Tomlinson. Acclaimed as the "Father of GIS"  
Prince William. Second-in-Line to the British Throne. Also Known As William of Wales

## EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY RECENT CONCORDIA GRADUATES

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified for upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Biodiversity Information Officer/Technician
- Botanical Field Technician (2221)
- Conservation Intern (2224)
- Eco Consultant
- Environmental Animator
- Environmental Educator
- Environmental Intern
- Environmental Policy Officer
- Field Analyst
- Field Technician
- Geographic Analyst
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Intern (2255)
- Geomatics Plan Technician (2255, 2254)
- Geometrician
- Geoscience Technician (2212)
- Hydrogeology Intern (2113)
- Impact Analyst (4161)
- Land Use Planner (2153)
- Operations Assistant
- Outreach Assistant
- Project Assistant
- Project Manager
- Research Assistant (4161)
- Teacher (4131, 4121)
- Technical Assistant
- Transportation Specialist/Planner (2153)

## MORE JOB TITLES

The work of geographers is diverse and the field offers a variety of career specialties such as physical geographers, regional geographers, economic geographers, political geographers, historical geographers and cartographers. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which geography majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Aerial Photograph Interpreter (2255)
- Agricultural Extension Supervisor (2123)
- Cartographer (2255)
- Cartographic Compiler (2255)
- Climatologist (2114)
- Coastal Zone Manager

- Community Developer (4163)
- Computer Mapper (2255)
- Demographer (2161)
- Earth Scientist
- Ecologist (2121)
- Eco-Tourism Consultant
- Environmental Quality Specialist
- Forest Manager (0412, 0811)
- Geographer (4169)
- Geographic Area Specialist
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician (2255)
- Geophysicist (2113)
- Hydrologist (2113)
- Industrial Development Representative (4163)
- Land Use Specialist (2153)
- Librarian (5111)
- Map Analyst (2255)
- Map Curator (5112)
- National Park Planner (2153)
- Natural Resources Officer (2224)
- Park Ranger (2224)
- Public Utilities Specialist (0912)
- Remote Sensing (RS)Technologist (2255)
- Retail Site Planner
- Soil Conservationist (2123)
- Surveyor (2154)
- Urban/Regional Planner (2153)
- Water Quality Control Manager (0912)
- Weather Forecaster (2114)
- Wildlife Naturalist (2121)
- Zoning Inspector (6463)

## POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

Private commercial firms, the government and academic institutions are the three major employers of geography graduates. A smaller percentage of those in the field work in the nonprofit sector or are self-employed. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available to consult in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Agricultural Companies
- Consulting Firms
- Environmental Consulting Firms
- Environmental Regulatory Agencies
- Geographic Consulting Firms
- Geographic Information Systems Firms
- Geological Surveying Companies
- Housing and Community Development Agencies
- International Development Agencies
- Land Developers
- Map Publishers
- Mining, Oil and Resource Companies
- Parks/Historic Sites
- Pollution Control Companies
- Public Utilities
- Real Estate Developers

- Recreational and Cultural Organizations
- Resource Analysis and Management Companies
- Transportation Companies
- Travel and Tourism Agencies
- Water Management Companies
- Urban and Regional Planning Firms

## **SKILLS and CHARACTERISTICS**

Geography majors should have a sound knowledge of the Earth's physical environments and their interrelationships. Many of those in the field develop, operate and maintain geographical information (GIS) computer systems. Geographers may work either indoors or outdoors. Those in the field may be required to work long, irregular hours sometimes in remote areas or under harsh climate conditions. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Conduct Field Studies
- Ability to Recognize Similarities
- Ability to Summarize
- Analyze, Synthesize and Interpret Information
- Computer Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Data Collection, Organization & Presentation
- Detail Oriented
- Geographical Knowledge
- Good Communication
- Interested in People and the Environment
- Knowledge of Statistics and Research Methodology
- Observe and Evaluate Critically
- Organizational Skills
- Problem Solving
- Surveying and Sampling Skills
- Understand/Construct Maps, Graphs and Charts
- Visualization Ability
- Write Reports and Proposals

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS**

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

# Canadian

## Canadian Association of Geographers

<http://www.cag-acg.ca/>

This is a national organization that represents geographers in the public, private and academic sectors. Members stay abreast of new developments in the field through its publications, list serves, conferences and meetings. Students should be sure to check out the useful information in the *Student Zone*.

## Canadian Cartographic Association

<http://www.cca-acc.org/>

The association provides a forum, through its meetings and publications, to network and exchange ideas. In the *Resources* section access the digital pamphlet *Careers in Cartography* and under *Links* a section on *Cartographic Education*.

## Canadian Institute of Geomatics

<http://www.cig-acsg.ca>

This organization represents the geospatial knowledge network in Canada. It provides a forum for members to network through its publications and events. It maintains an *Employment Opportunity* board.

## Connecting Environmental Professionals

<http://www.cepcanada.org/>

Organization dedicated to promoting opportunities for young and emerging environmental and sustainability professionals through workshops, events, and networking sessions. *Job postings* accessible to members only.

# International

## Association of American Geographers (AAG)

<http://www.aag.org>

This is a great organization for those wishing to stay on top of the latest research and/or those wishing to jump start their career. Click on *Jobs & Careers* for career information, employment opportunities and member profiles.

## Imaging & Geospatial Information Society

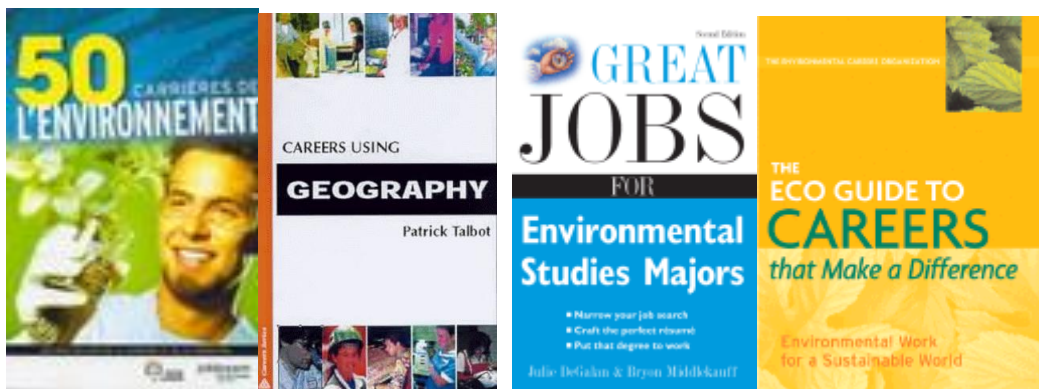
[www.asprs.org](http://www.asprs.org)

The purpose of this Society is to promote mapping and the responsible applications of photogrammetry, remote sensing and geographic information systems. Much of interest can be found for the student member including news groups, scholarships and career information. Click on *Students*.

# Creating Your Amazing Career

## CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.\*



- Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty
- Canadian Environmental Directory
- Career Opportunities in Science
- Careers in Geoscience
- Careers in Geography & Urban Studies Panel Discussion – DVD
- Careers Using Geography
- The ECO Guide to Careers That Make a Difference
- 50 Carrières de l'environnement
- Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors
- Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences
- Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment
- Resumes for Environmental Careers