WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … Geography

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
According to the UNM Geography and Environmental Studies website (2013), “Geography offers an integrative perspective on the relations among social, political, economic, and physical phenomena in space and place. Geography describes and explains the past, present, and future locations and spatial patterns of humans and their settlements, cultural and economic traits, and natural environment and resources. Geographical research addresses important issues relating to the environment and how culture and nature are connected. The department's programs focus on environmental studies, that is, human/environment interactions, natural resource policy and management, and legal geography and social justice; and Geographic Information Science (GIScience), that is, Geographic Information Systems, cartography and geovisualization, remote sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and spatial statistics.”

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and is good preparation for entering a variety of occupations that require strong writing skills, competency in research, and excellent interpersonal skills. However, depending upon the student's career interests, some occupations may require a graduate degree (Master's, Ph.D., J.D.). Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Geography Department offers a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree. According to the UNM Geography and Environmental Studies website (2013), "The BA and BS degrees prepare majors for one of two career paths, or for entrance into the MS Program. The BA degree acknowledges general competency in Geography for those seeking careers in either applied geography or environmental management. The GIScience minor is ideally suited for majors from many A&S departments, as well as from other Schools at UNM. These technologies are finding many practical applications in the social and physical sciences, engineering, health care, architecture and planning, and legal professions."

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM's Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Education
Teaching, Research, Administration, Two and four year colleges and universities, University research institutes or laboratories, Campus museums

Environmental
Federal and state government (Environmental Protection Agency, Departments of Agriculture, National Forest Service, National Park Service), Firms specializing in forestry, mining, engineering, environmental issues, waste management, architecture, or surveying, Law firms, Real estate developers, Scientific and research groups, Waste management companies, Chemical companies.

Geographic Science
Federal government agencies (Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and State, Defense Mapping, NASA, CIA), State and local government agencies, Private industry sector (telephone, utilities, construction, engineering, energy, environmental planning, and consulting firms), Map publishers, Mapping software companies, Colleges and universities.

Cultural and Human
Public relations representative, Technical writer, Researcher, Columnist/journalist, Editor, Publicationist, Elementary or Secondary Educator, Professor, Principal

Planning and Economic
Banks, Consulting firms, Federal, state, and local government, Manufacturing, wholesale, and retail firms, Public utilities, Real estate developers, Research organizations, Private business, Architecture firms

Physical
**Student Affairs:**
Administration, Greek affairs, advising, multicultural affairs, residence life, student activities

**Suggested Strategies**
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
- Make strong connections throughout campus organizations by networking and attending campus events and activities.
- Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study (e.g., business).
- Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
- Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
- Make sure to research organizations’ values, so it could be congruent with yours. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.

**WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?**
USA Jobs *(official job site of the federal government)* [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
Idealist.org *(comprehensive site of international nonprofit opportunities)* [http://www.idealista.org/](http://www.idealista.org/)

**STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES**
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2012 10%</th>
<th>2012 25%</th>
<th>2012 Median</th>
<th>2012 75%</th>
<th>2012 90%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$34,900</td>
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<td>$57,400</td>
<td>$75,300</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>$37,700</td>
<td>$45,700</td>
<td>$57,400</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES**
- UNM Department of Geography [http://geography.unm.edu/](http://geography.unm.edu/)
- Britain Association for American Studies [http://www.baas.ac.uk/](http://www.baas.ac.uk/)
- American Studies Crossroads Project [http://crossroads.georgetown.edu/](http://crossroads.georgetown.edu/)

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES**
- [http://www.onetonline.org/](http://www.onetonline.org/)

**REFERENCES**