

COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE

Taylor McPeak, 2015 UNK graduate

GEOGRAPHY Bachelor of Arts

Geography is more than studying maps and terrains. The subject is closely connected to environmental science, so majors often take classes about naturally occurring hazards, weather principles, conservation principles and interrelationships between humans, culture and the world. In the lab, you will have access to state of the art computer technology with GIS, remote sensing and cartography software.

You might be a geographer if you have a curiosity of the natural world, wonder how and why the environment varies from place to place, and see connections with people, culture and climate. Majoring in geography, you will study the world's environmental issues, natural resources, populations, and political and economic systems. You will gain skills to interpret and explain real-world events that occur between nature and the environment. This program leaves room to explore an unrelated minor or second major.

Career opportunities

- Cartographer
- Climatologist
- Computer mapper
- Park ranger
- Land use planner
- Real estate agent
- 911 coordinator
- Travel agent
- Market area analyst

Advantages that UNK has to offer geography students

- Students can build relationships with faculty members through classes, research and projects.
- Majors are encouraged to work with a faculty member in "hands-on training" doing research.
- Learning geography is fun and useful using advanced equipment and instrumentation.

More than once in history, the Mississippi River has actually flowed backward as a result of natural disasters.

Student profile

When it came time to decide a college direction, Tayler McPeak, from Valentine, Neb., looked to his older siblings. "UNK just seemed right, and my older brother and sister are now alumni of UNK."

McPeak has a goal to become a wildland firefighter. Wildland firefighting agencies operate at the federal, state and local levels, and the work is strenuous and the positions are highly competitive. To set himself apart from other applicants, McPeak is working toward a geography degree. "I chose to study GIS and minor in environmental science because I was looking for something that could be used in wildland firefighting."



TAYLER MCPEAK

McPeak's next step was training, and he participated in combating a wildland fire near his hometown and assisted in completing a backburn.

McPeak's experience at UNK has been valuable. "Particularly the geography department. I can go and talk with the professors one-on-one when I need extra help."

Physical geographers

concentrate on the earth and topics such as weather, climate, soils, landforms and the natural environment.

Human geographers concentrate on the activities of people, such as culture, economics, political systems and history.

GEOGRAPHY

FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF ARTS

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

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| <p>Semester 1 (15 credits)</p> <p>GS ENG 102 Writing and Research GS core Oral Communication GS core MATH GS Portal 188 course (your choice) GS Aesthetics course</p> | <p>Semester 2 (14 credits)</p> <p>GS core Democracy in Perspective GS Humanities course GS Natural Sciences course with lab GEOG 101 Physical Geography I</p> |
| <p>Semester 3 (16 credits)</p> <p>GS Social Sciences course GS Elective GEOG 102 Physical Geography II GEOG 104 World Regional Geography Minor or second major course</p> | <p>Semester 4 (14 credits)</p> <p>GS Natural Sciences course GS Elective (2 credits) GEOG 106 Human Geography GEOG 206 Geography of U.S./Canada Minor or second major course</p> |
| <p>Semester 5 (15 credits)</p> <p>GS Humanities course GS Social Sciences course GEOG 300 or GEOG 310 Minor or second major course Language requirement course</p> | <p>Semester 6 (15 credits)</p> <p>GEOG 410, 415 or 443 (3 credits) Minor or second major course Minor or second major course Language requirement course Unrestricted elective</p> |
| <p>Semester 7 (16 credits)</p> <p>GS Capstone 388 course (your choice) GEOG 300-499 course (except 388) GEOG 300-499 course (except 388) Minor or second major course Unrestricted elective Unrestricted elective (1 credit)</p> | <p>Semester 8 (15 credits)</p> <p>GEOG 300-499 course (except 388) GEOG 300-499 course (except 388) Minor or second major course Minor or second major course Unrestricted elective</p> |

Gamma Theta Upsilon

Gamma Theta Upsilon, an international honor society, has a local chapter, Zeta Sigma, at UNK. Members in the organization welcome those who share an interest in geography. Activities support geography knowledge and awareness, such as Geography Awareness Week.

Geography Student Fund

The UNK Geography Department has an endowed scholarship fund to support students majoring in geography. Talk to the department for more information about additional scholarships.

Undergraduate research opportunities

You can be mentored one-on-one and build practical problem-solving skills that prove valuable later on the job or in graduate school by participating in research projects through:

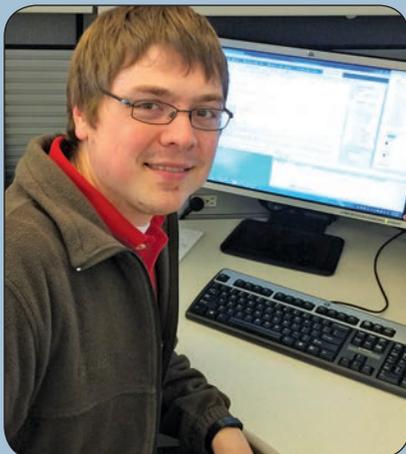
- Upper-level geography courses
- Summer Student Research Program
- Undergraduate Research Fellows
- Honors program

In the UNK GIScience lab, state-of-the-art computer technology with GIS, remote sensing and cartography software is available.

For more information, contact:

H. Jason Combs, professor and chair
Copeland Hall, 203
University of Nebraska at Kearney
(308) 865-8605
combsjh@unk.edu

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Alumni profile – Andrew Miller

At UNK, Andrew Miller did not begin with a geography major. “I had lost interest in my previous major, and happened to take a geography class that I found to be very interesting. I spoke with a professor who introduced me to the idea of the major and thought it would be a good change.”

That was the beginning of relationships Miller built with faculty in the geography department. “The professors were very easy to talk to and work with. By the end of my time at UNK, I felt very comfortable walking into their offices and speaking with them about class or about my future.”

Miller credits his career success to UNK. “I did research projects in my classes and through Undergraduate Research that help me do the job I do today.” Miller is now a GIS analyst at Union Pacific’s office in Omaha, Neb., where he performs a variety of duties in support of the railroad industry, such as maintaining information in Union Pacific’s electronic field book.