The undergraduate geography program has three main objectives: to promote the understanding of the locational dimensions of human behavior in their environmental context; to apply geographic concepts and methods toward understanding economic, environmental, and social problems; and to promote international understanding through area studies. Areas of emphasis include physical geography, human geography, and geotechnologies.

Degree Outcomes
Graduates have found careers in business and industry, urban and regional planning agencies, departments of federal and state governments, and teaching. Professional roles include city or regional planner, cartographer, demographer, resource analyst, land or economic developer, location analyst, and teacher/professor. An undergraduate geography degree is an excellent foundation for advanced graduate work or professional training in planning, business, or law.

The Student Experience
Courses that challenge students to think about the spatial patterns of environmental, social, economic, and political processes close to home and around the world. An emphasis on hands-on learning with popular field schools for academic credit, including a summer field school in the western U.S. and international field schools in locations like Southeast Asia. Faculty mentorship on research projects with topics such as urban and transportation systems, tree-ring science, Europe’s migration crisis, and water resource management. Internships in local planning and mapping agencies and nonprofits. Facilities including fully equipped laboratories in computer cartography, geographic information systems, and remote sensing with a variety of other specialized locational analysis programs for both instruction and research. Labs that support teaching and research studies in dendrochronology (tree-ring studies), soils and regolith analysis, and geographic information systems. A student-run Geography Club that organizes speakers, hikes, and service projects and department activities like “GeoBowl,” pitting UNC schools against each other.
Accolades & Accomplishments
Our faculty and students have received numerous awards for teaching, research, and community engagement from local, regional, and national organizations.

Accreditations & Affiliations
Departmental chapter of the national geography honor society Gamma Theta Upsilon.

Major & Concentration(s)
- Geography (BA) (LIC)
- Earth Science & Environmental Studies
- Geographic Information Science
- Urban Planning
Contact
Dr. Jay Lennartson
Senior Lecturer
gjlennar@uncg.edu

Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability
ges.uncg.edu
336.334.5388
237 Graham Building
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

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