The undergraduate geography program has three main objectives: to promote the understanding of the locational dimensions of human behavior in their environmental context; to offer a curriculum in which geographic concepts and methods are applied to 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

• Graduating majors of the department have found careers in business and industry, in urban and regional planning agencies, in departments of federal and state governments, and in teaching.
• Professional roles include city or regional planner, cartographer, demographer, resource analyst, land or economic developer, location analyst, and teacher/professor.
• Many graduates find that an undergraduate degree in geography 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.
• A department that emphasizes hands-on learning with popular field schools for academic credit, including a summer field school in the western United States 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.
• Learning in 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 departmental activities such as the “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.