CAREERS IN….

Geography is the study of the interrelationships between earth and its people. It is considered a social and natural science. The discipline focuses on man’s interaction with climate, land, water, space, mineral resources, population density, changes in environment, and how man adapts to them. Alternatively, Urban Studies focuses on the study of cities, emphasizing the process of urbanization, urban problems, the socioeconomic aspects of urban life, and past and present efforts at urban planning and development.

At William Paterson University, students may enroll as Geography and Urban Studies majors in a course of study that leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree. Geography and Urban Studies is a 34 credit major. William Paterson University offers two tracks which include a general geography concentration and the Urban/Economic/Geography Information Systems track.

The requirements for general geography concentration include the following:

- 19 credits of required courses
- 6 regional geography credits
- 6 geography elective credits
- 3 credits in geographical techniques

The requirements for Urban/Economic/GIS track include the following:

- 28 credits in required courses
- 3 credits in electives
- 3 credits in geospatial techniques


Interests & Skills:

- Curiosity
- Spirit of scientific inquiry
- Intellectual growth
- Resourcefulness
- Desire to help people understand and adapt to their environment
- Desire to help influence mankind
- Independence
- Keen interest in both the natural and social sciences

Work Environment:

Geography majors can work in a variety of different locations including federal and state services like the EPA or National Park services. In addition, they may work for real estate companies, chemical companies and law firms. Utility companies, construction and construction firms are just some of the private industries that would employ geography majors. Map software companies and publishing firms would also be interested in hiring geography majors. Those who graduate with Geographical information system track are well suited for federal agencies like the department of defense and state government agencies like the Departments of Transportation or Agriculture.

Enhance Your Qualifications:

Students who major in Geography at William Paterson University have numerous opportunities to enhance their academic experience. Students can obtain internships at various locations depending on their area of interest. In addition, a geography major can supplement their major with a minor in business or other minors associated with their specific career goals. Geography majors should connect with professionals, fellow students and professors on LinkedIn. In addition, they will want to join groups on LinkedIn. Students should also join professional organizations and read trade publications so that they can understand, recall and analyze current trends in the industry. Finally, many students find that a study abroad experience enhances their curriculum because they are given the opportunity to experience other cultures and customs. Students who meet certain requirements can be a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geography Honor Society. For more information about the Honor Society, contact the geography department.
Possible job titles:
*Aerial Photo Interpreter
*Land Developer
*Teacher
*Air/Water Quality Control Manager
*Traffic Manager
*Hazardous Waste Developer
*Natural Resources Specialist
*Property Manager
*Site Researcher
*Forestry Technician
*Cartography Compiler
*Geographic Area Specialist
*Transportation Analyst
*Outdoor Guide
*Market Research Analyst
*Land Economist
*Location Expert
*Cartographer
*Systems Analyst
*Community Developer
*Urban/Regional Planner
*Environmental Impact Analyst
*Climateologist
*Map Analyst
*Surveyor
*Travel Agent
*College Prof.
*Writer

WPUNJ Alumni:

Quality Improvement Coordinator
Assistant Director - Information Service
Field Engineer
Manager
City Planning
Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Prudential Insurance Company
Rutgers University - Urban Policy Rsch Ctr
IEA Incorporated
Central Office Engineering - MCI International
City of NY - Landmarks Commission
NJ State Dept of Health and Senior Services

Related Web Sites:
National Geographic
Association of American Geographers
US Geological Survey
National Council for Geographic Education
Occupational Outlook Handbook
Salary.com
O*net

http://www.nationalgeographic.com
http://www.aag.org/
http://www.usgs.gov/
http://www.ncge.org/
http://www.bls.gov/oco
http://www.salary.com
http://www.onetonline.org

Other sources:
Please drop by the Career Development and Advisement Center to learn more about careers in geography. The career library carries career-specific books and counselors are available to answer any further questions you may have. Visiting the Geography Department on campus may also prove valuable in addressing questions.

Compliments of:
The Career Development and Gloria S. Williams Advisement Center
http://www.wpunj.edu/career-advisement/
973-720-2653/2281/2559