The Department of Geography and Planning offers programs that bridge the physical and social sciences, combining the theoretical with practical experience. As a student, you will gain knowledge that can be applied to societal and environmental problems and to future planning. Department programs prepare you for a strong post-graduation job market as well as for advanced educational opportunities. Geographic information systems (GIS) technology is an especially powerful career tool that is increasingly important in many areas of employment. The department offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Career Opportunities
Geography and planning majors from West Chester University are pursuing successful careers at various levels of government service and in private companies and agencies, including the following:
- Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia)
- Arro Group
- Amtrak
- Bentley Systems, Inc.
- Cahill Associates (environmental planning)
- Cartographic Institute
- Chester County Department of Computing and Information Services
- Chester County Development Council
- Chester County Health Department
- CH Planning, Limited
- City of Philadelphia Mayor’s Office of Information Services
- City of Philadelphia Police Department Crime Analysis and Mapping Unit
- City of Reading
- Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Day & Zimmerman, Inc. (information solutions branch)
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of Pennsylvania
- Donnelly Corporation
- Environmental Resources Management, Inc.
- Environmental Systems Research, Inc. (ESRI)
- InfoMap Technologies
- Land investment and real estate agencies
- Lockheed Martin
- McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc. (engineers and planners)
- Montgomery County Lands Trust
- Municipalities
- Natural Lands Trust
- Navigation Technologies
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- NUS Corporation (an employer of environmental scientists)
- Peace Corps
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Pennsylvania Power and Light, Inc.
- Planning commissions for counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery (Pa.); Cecil and Hartford (Md.); and New Castle (Del.)
- Roy F. Weston (environmental engineering)
- School districts
- Siemens Medical Solutions USA
- Signal Corporation
- Soil Conservation Service
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
- State and private universities
- Temple University
- Thomas Comitta Associates, Inc. (planning and consulting firm)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of the Census
- U.S. Defense Mapping Agency
- U.S. Forestry Department
- U.S. State Department
- Vertex, Inc.
- Vistronix

Some have entered these careers with the bachelor’s degree; others have entered graduate programs at the following institutions:
- Drexel University
- Indiana University (Bloomington)
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Louisiana State University
- Purdue University
- Rutgers University
- St. Joseph’s University
- State University of New York at Albany
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- Texas A & M
- Temple University
- Towson State University
- University of Alabama
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Learn More
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee
Villanova University
Virginia Tech
West Chester University
Widener University School of Law

Undergraduate Degree

**Bachelor of Arts in Geography.** This program offers you the choice of five “tracks,” or areas of concentration: geography, urban/regional planning, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental, and elective social studies teacher certification.

All of these programs provide a sound general education. A concentration in urban/regional planning prepares you for careers in planning and related fields. The environmental track is for those with an interest in the environment or sustainability. Those with an interest in human geography or in international studies usually choose the general geography track. The GIS track is designed for careers in public and private agencies in which computer analysis of spatial data is a critical concern. The social studies education track prepares students to teach at the secondary education level.

Minor Programs

Business Geographics and Information Systems
Geography

Related Student Activities

Geography Club
Gamma Theta Upsilon (international honor society)
EARTH Club (environmental group)

Facilities

The Department of Geography and Planning is located in Ruby Jones Hall, a charming, stately building on the corner of Church Street and University Avenue. Facilities and classrooms also are located in Anderson Hall. On the ground floor of Ruby Jones Hall is the primary geography computer lab, a place for carrying out course assignments in computer cartography, Geographic information systems (GIS), and similar techniques courses. Additional GIS labs are located in Anderson Hall (business and environmental applications).

The department places strong emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation and research, including GIS applications in the fields of environmental and health sciences, urban and regional planning, and business management and marketing. You may work with faculty on contracts/projects with public and private agencies in applying GIS skills for real-world problem solving.

Special Study Opportunities

If you are a qualified junior or senior, and you desire to participate, internship placements are possible, many of which are paid. Internships also are available to graduate students. Geography and planning students have participated in student exchange programs in the United States and abroad.

Advanced Degrees

Master of Arts in Geography
Master of Public Administration with a certificate in Urban and Regional Planning
Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Certification in Urban and Regional Planning

Faculty

You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program from the contact person listed below.

For More Information

Dr. Dottie Ives Dewey, Chairperson
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610–436–2746 or 436–2343
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Web page: [http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_sba.geo/default.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_sba.geo/default.asp)
Undergraduate Catalog: [http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/)

Information on Admission

**Office of Admissions**

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.
West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383
610–436–3411 • Toll-free: 1–877–315–2165
E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu
WCU home page: [www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu)
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wcupa](http://www.facebook.com/wcupa)