DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

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Programs offered by the Department of Geography and Geology are designed to meet the career goals of students in a wide variety of geoscience areas. Over the past decade, most of our program graduates have found employment in their preferred professions, and many have gone on to advanced graduate programs.

Geography courses provide a scientific foundation for the investigation and understanding of the physical and biological environments, the nature of social, political and economic activity, and the interaction between humans and the environment. Collectively, these courses offer basic professional training for geographers, environmental scientists, and spatial analysts, as well as providing geographic training for prospective elementary, middle, and high school teachers. They are also an essential component of international programs offered by the university in Latin American, Asian, African, and Canadian studies, and in International business. Geography is considered an essential life skill.

Professional degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies, Meteorology, and Geographic Information Science (GIS) prepare students for service as water and environmental resource managers, city and regional planners, industrial and commercial consultants, meteorologists and climatologists, cartographers, G.I.S. analysts, educators, and government employees in a wide range of national, state, and local agencies. Environmental Planning, Resource Management, and Sustainable Development are interdisciplinary specialties of the Department and many graduates work for the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and other management agencies. Majors in Meteorology and GIS prepare students for professional careers in the atmospheric sciences and in positions that demand sophisticated spatial analytical techniques.

Geology courses provide the basic professional foundation for the scientific investigation of the Earth as well as geological education for the prospective teacher. Geology majors may enter positions in industry and government agencies. Many geologists work in interdisciplinary fields such as hydrology, energy, environmental and engineering geology, geophysics, and geochemistry. Geologists are needed in many areas for basic Earth research, for exploration and development of natural resources, and to address various environmental problems. Students are prepared for a variety of interesting and important career positions in federal and state agencies, engineering and environmental firms, and other areas of private industry, including oil, gas, and coal companies. In addition to the professional B.S. degree in Geology, majors may also select A.B. degree options in earth and space science or general geoscience. The geology program also prepares students for eventual certification as a Professional Geologist.

When planning a program of study in this department, each student should be aware of the University's academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter, “Academic Information.” Specific attention should be given to the subsections in the chapters entitled (a) Academic Programs, (b) Colonnade Requirements, and (c) Academic Requirements and Regulations. Students should be aware that some academic programs may require additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations, students should contact the department head.

A five-year bachelors/masters in geography, geology, meteorology, or GIS and geoscience (JUMP program) is available so that motivated students can focus their research interests and gain a Master's degree in an expedited time frame. Five-year bachelors/masters programs can be tailored to meet other research interests for motivated students.

Degrees

- Geographic Information Science, Bachelor of Science (576) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/geography-geology/geographic-information-science-bs)
- Geography and Environmental Studies, Bachelor of Science (675) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/geography-geology/geography-environmental-studies-bs)
- Geology, Bachelor of Science (577) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/geography-geology/geology-bs)
- Meteorology, Bachelor of Science (578) (http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/geography-geology/meteorology-bs)

Certificate


Faculty

Professor
Catherine M. Algeo PhD (Geography), Louisiana State University & A&M College, 1998
Stuart A. Foster PhD (Geography), The Ohio State University Main Campus, 1988
Margaret M. Gripshover PhD (Geography), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1995
Christopher G. Groves PhD (Environmental Science), University of Virginia, 1993
David J. Keeling PhD (Geography), University of Oregon, 1992
Michael T. May PhD (Geological Sciences), Indiana University-Bloomington, 1992
Jun Yan PhD (Geography), SUNY College at Buffalo, 2004

Associate Professor
Joshua D. Durkee PhD (Geography), University of Georgia, 2002
Xingang Fan PhD (Atmospheric Sciences, Synoptic Dynamics), Lanzhou University, 1996
MD R. Gani PhD (Geosciences), University of Texas at Dallas, 2005
Nahid Gani PhD (Geosciences), University of Texas at Dallas, 2006
Gregory B. Goodrich PhD (Geography), Arizona State University-ALL, 2005
Leslie A. North PhD (Geography and Environmental Science and Policy), University of South Florida, 2011
Jason Polk PhD (Geography and Environmental Science and Policy), University of South Florida, 2009
Fredrick D. Siewers PhD (Geology), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1995
Andrew H. Wulff PhD (Geosciences), University of Massachusetts, 1999

Assistant Professor
Jill R. Brown MS (Geoscience), Western Kentucky University, 2002
Instructor I
Patricia N. Kambesis PhD (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences), Mississippi State University, 2014

Instructor II
William P. Blackburn MS (Geoscience), Western Kentucky University, 2003
Kevin B. Cary MS (Geoscience), Western Kentucky University, 2001
Margaret E. Crowder EdD (Educational Leadership, Postsecondary Leadership), Western Kentucky University, 2012
Scott A. Dobler MA (Geography), Bowling Green State University, 1990
Amy T. Nemon MS (Geoscience), Western Kentucky University, 2007