

GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY

College of Arts and Sciences

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability is to advance understanding of the interconnected natural and human worlds through our interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service. GES is a student-centered department with a commitment to rigorous classroom instruction and providing opportunities for field-based inquiry. Our faculty are leaders in their fields who translate their expertise into cutting-edge applied and theoretical teaching and research in our undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs. We prepare students for a wide range of careers and advanced research fields including sustainability, physical geography, urban planning, Geographic Information Science (GISc), and environmental fields.

GES believes that our work can and should contribute to a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. We affirm UNC Greensboro's commitment to equal opportunity in education and employment for all persons and actively seek to increase representation from historically underrepresented groups. We acknowledge that fields of study represented in GES historically have struggled to attract students and faculty from diverse backgrounds and that the current makeup of GES does not mirror the diversity of UNC Greensboro. We therefore seek to create spaces that are welcoming of diversity in many forms, including race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic origin, immigration status, socioeconomic background, political beliefs, veteran status, disability, family status, and age.

About

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers curricula with three principal objectives: to promote the understanding of the locational dimensions of human behavior in their environmental context; to offer courses of study through which concepts and methods are applied to understanding economic, environmental, and social problems at the local, regional, and global scales; and to promote sustainability through the interconnected lenses of social equity, the environment, economy, and aesthetics. Thus, the Department contributes an important dimension to the university student's liberal education and provides practical training in important contemporary areas of concern as well as the background appropriate for a wide variety of vocations.

Graduates of geography programs find careers in major employment sectors that include private business and industry, local, state, and federal government, non-profit organizations, education, and urban, transport, and regional planning. A small sample of job titles for those with a geography degree includes city or regional planner, transportation

planner, geographic information analyst/scientist, demographer, land and water resource specialist, environmental scientist, conservationist, economic developer, location analyst, and teacher. In addition to providing an array of employment opportunities and a knowledge base for those interested in pursuing graduate studies, an undergraduate degree in geography can be an excellent foundation for professional training in planning, business, or law.

Graduates of environmental and sustainability programs go on to careers in non-profits, government, and the private sector as well as to graduate studies in a variety of disciplines. Career paths are numerous and include advocacy, agriculture, business, design, education, enforcement, journalism, law, nature and land protection, organizing for social and environmental justice, tourism and recreation, etc. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, participate regularly in internships and study abroad, and benefit from personalized advising.

Special facilities of the department include fully equipped laboratories in computer cartography, geographic information systems, remote sensing, and earth science/physical geography. The Department has led annual credit-bearing field courses since the early 1980s.

Degree Programs

The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in two main areas: in geography and in environmental and sustainability studies. The disciplinary expertise in geography is housed primarily within our department, while the interdisciplinarity of environmental and sustainability fields is focused via a departmental program that collaborates with many other campus departments.

Geography degrees emphasize the application of geographical theory and methods to problems related to sustainable economic development, environmental quality, population change, and social well-being in urban, rural, regional, and international contexts. The department offers the B.A. and B.S. degrees in Geography with concentrations in earth science, geographic information science, and urban planning, and also offers the Ph.D. in Geography. Additionally, we offer two minors for undergraduates (Digital Earth Technologies and Geography) and Post-Baccalaureate Certificates for graduate students in Global and Regional Studies Geography and, jointly with the Department of Political Science, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Urban and Economic Development.

The Environment & Sustainability Program is an interdisciplinary program that fosters understanding of the relationships between human societies and the natural, physical, and biological settings in which life on Earth exists. The graduate degree (M.S. in Sustainability & Environment), undergraduate major (B.A. in Environment & Sustainability), and three minors (Climate Justice, Environment, and Sustainability) all integrate perspectives of the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. The Program degrees build on the unique definition of sustainability at UNC Greensboro (<http://sustainability.uncg.edu>), where "Academics, operations, and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics." Our degrees require electives in each of those four areas: natural sciences, equity and society, development and economics, and ethics and aesthetics. Students in the B.A. program concentrate either in Natural Sciences or in Equity, Development & Ethics, while the M.S. students have options to also earn our Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in Climate Justice (joint with Peace and Conflict Studies), Conservation (joint with Biology), Environmental Humanities (interdisciplinary), or other departments'

offerings. Additionally, we offer a stand-alone Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in Sustainability.

Professor

Rick L. Bunch^G
 Corey Michael Johnson^G
 Paul A. Knapp^G
 Dan Royall^G
 Selima Sultana^G

Academic Professional Professor

James A. Nelson^G

Associate Professor

Wenliang Li^G

Academic Professional Associate Professor

Plaxedes Chitiyo^G

Assistant Professor

John G. Stehlin^G
 Bhuwan Thapa

Lecturer

Shamusideen Sunday Ayeni
 Avery Arlene Catherwood
 Blake Edward Corvin
 L. Julian Keniry
 G.Jay Lennartson^G
 Shaleen A Miller

^G Graduate-level faculty

Jointly-Appointed Faculty

Aaron S. Allen^G, Associate Professor (jointly appointed with the School of Music (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/visual-performing-arts/music/>)) and Director of Environment and Sustainability Program

- Environment and Sustainability, B.A. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/environment-and-sustainability-ba/>)
- Geography, B.A. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-ba/>)
- Geography, B.S. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-bs/>)
- Climate Justice Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/climate-justice-minor/>)
- Digital Earth Technologies Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/digital-earth-technologies-minor/>)
- Environment Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/environment-minor/>)
- Geography Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-minor/>)
- Sustainability Undergraduate Minor (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-minor/>)
- Geography Second Academic Concentration (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-second-academic-concentration/>)

- Sustainability and Environment, M.S. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-environment-ms/>)
- Geography, Ph.D. (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-phd/>)
- Climate Justice, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/climate-justice-pbc/>)
- Conservation, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/conservation-pbc/>)
- Digital Earth Technologies, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/digital-earth-technologies-pbc/>)
- Environmental Humanities, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/environmental-humanities-pbc/>)
- Global Societies and Governance, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/global-societies-governance-pbc/>)
- Sustainability, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (<https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-pbc/>)