Geographical and Sustainability Sciences

Chair
• David A. Bennett

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Undergraduate majors: geography (B.A., B.S.); sustainability science (B.S.)
Undergraduate minors: geographic information science; geography
Undergraduate certificate: geographic information science
Graduate degrees: M.A. in geography; Ph.D. in geography
Faculty: https://clas.uiowa.edu/geography/people/faculty
Website: https://clas.uiowa.edu/geography/

The importance of geographical and sustainability sciences is rooted in the complexity of social and environmental problems. We live on a dynamic planet, one that is constantly changing in response to human and natural processes that are highly interconnected. Geographers study the interactions of people and their environment to better understand these intricately related processes. At the University of Iowa, the department teaches and conducts research on human and natural systems and how interactions between these systems shape the world we live in. Cutting edge technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS), satellite imagery, and Global Positioning System (GPS), are used to help inform decision making at geographic scales and to analyze and visualize geographic processes.

The Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences offers undergraduate programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. Undergraduate students with a major in geography select from three tracks: environmental studies, geographic information science (GISci), and health and society. Each track requires introductory and upper-level geography and sustainability courses, as well as coursework from other departments. The department also offers the B.S. with a major in sustainability science. In addition, the department offers a minor in geography and a minor and certificate in geographic information science. It administers the interdisciplinary environmental policy and planning major and collaborates with other departments to offer the undergraduate Certificates in Social Science Analytics and related Certificates in the Catalog.

GE CLAS Core Courses

The Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences offers a number of courses that students in other majors may use to satisfy requirements of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Look for courses with the prefix GEOG under “Natural Sciences,” “Social Sciences,” and “International and Global Issues” in the GE CLAS Core section of the Catalog. Nonmajors also may choose geographical and sustainability sciences courses as electives.

Related Certificates

Social Science Analytics

The Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences collaborates with the Departments of Political Science, Sociology and Criminology, and Statistics and Actuarial Science (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) to offer the undergraduate program in social science analytics. The Department of Political Science administers the certificate; see the Certificate in Social Science Analytics in the Catalog.

Sustainability

The Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences collaborates with the Departments of Biology, Earth and Environmental Science (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), Civil and Environmental Engineering (College of Engineering), as well as the School of Planning and Public Affairs (Graduate College) and the Tippie College of Business to offer the undergraduate program in sustainability. The certificate is administered by University College; see the Certificate in Sustainability in the Catalog.