DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

College of Business and Public Management

103 Ruby Jones Hall
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383
610-436-2343
Fax: 610-436-2889
Department of Geography and Planning (http://www.wcupa.edu/geographyPlanning)
Dr. Ives-Dewey (divesdewey@wcupa.edu), Chairperson and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate Programs
Dr. Katirai (mkatirai@wcupa.edu), Graduate Coordinator

Programs of Study

The Department of Geography and Planning offers a master of arts in geography. The degree is designed to develop skills and expertise in areas such as urban and regional planning, sustainability and environment, conservation of resources, and GIS analysis, including business and commercial applications. It also prepares students for entrance into Ph.D. programs in geography and in planning. The M.A. degree has thesis and nonthesis options.

The department offers two certificate programs -- one in urban and regional planning and the other in geographic information systems (GIS) -- for students who desire specific programs of study but not a degree. The GIS certificate is offered in a classroom-based format or online. The certificate in urban and regional planning may be combined with the core courses of the master of public administration (M.P.A.) to complete the M.P.A. degree. The latter is an interdisciplinary degree described under Master of Public Administration (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/public-policy-administration/master-public-administration-mpa).

Programs

Master's Program in Geography and Planning

- M.A. in Geography (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/geography-ma)

Certificates in Geography and Planning

- Urban and Regional Planning (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/urban-regional-planning-certificate)
- Gainful Employment Information: Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning (http://wcupa.edu/gainfulEmployment)
- Geographic Information Systems (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/business-public-management/geography-planning/geographic-information-systems-certificate)

Admissions

All applicants to one of West Chester University's graduate programs will be held to the graduate admissions requirements (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/general-information/admissions-enrollment/graduate-admissions). When applicable, additional requirements for admission into specific department program(s) may be listed below.

Admission M.A. in Geography

Applicants should submit transcripts of all undergraduate work, two letters of recommendation, a resume that indicates relevant work experience, and a statement of career background and goals. GRE or other standardized scores are useful in the admission process but are not required. The department welcomes qualified applicants who have no previous background in geography, although additional preliminary or concurrent work may be required. Admission is based on department evaluation of course work taken for the baccalaureate degree and additional course work, if any, in combination with the other criteria above.

Admission to Certificate Programs

Students who want to enroll in a certificate program must hold a bachelor's degree (in any subject area) from an accredited institution and have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 2.8. Interested students should complete the online graduate studies application available at www.wcupa.edu/grad, and follow the instructions for the self-managed application process. If a certificate student subsequently or simultaneously applies for and is accepted into the master of arts degree program in geography, the geography courses taken for the certificate programs can be counted towards the degree.

Policies

All students in graduate programs are held to the academic policies and procedures (http://catalog.wcupa.edu/graduate/academic-policies-procedures) outlined in the graduate catalog. When applicable, additional policies for specific department programs(s) may be listed below.

Faculty

Professors

Dorothy Ives-Dewey (divesdewey@wcupa.edu) (2005)
Chairperson, Geography and Planning
Graduate Coordinator, Geography and Planning
B.A., Lafayette College; M.P.I., University of Southern California; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
James P. Lewandowski (jlewandowski@wcupa.edu) (1991)
B.A., M.A., University of Toledo; Ph.D., Ohio State University
Joan M. Welch (jwelch@wcupa.edu) (1990)
B.A., St. Cloud State University; M.A., Ph.D., Boston University

Associate Professors

Gary Coutu (gcoutu@wcupa.edu) (2005)
B.A., Duquesne University; M.S.P.M.P., Carnegie Mellon University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
Kristen B. Crossney (kcrossney@wcupa.edu) (2008)
B.S., University of Maryland-Baltimore County; M.A., Temple University; Ph.D., Rutgers University
Joy Fritschle (jfritschle@wcupa.edu) (2007)
B.A., Humboldt State University; M.S., University of Memphis; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
Matin Katirai (mkatirai@wcupa.edu) (2009)
Graduate Coordinator, Geography and Planning
B.A., York University, Toronto; M.P.H., University of Kentucky College of Public Health; Ph.D., University of Louisville

Assistant Professor

Megan L. Heckert (mheckert@wcupa.edu) (2014)
B.S., Brown University; M.A., Ph.D., Temple University

Courses

GEO 502. Topical Seminar in Geography. 3 Credits.
Special topics in geography or planning not offered under existing, regularly offered courses. Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
Repeateable for Credit.
GEO 503. Seminar in Modern Geography. 3 Credits.
A survey of modern geographic research, with historical perspective. Attention is given to research methodology, and to the breadth of subfields and perspectives in the discipline. Typically offered in Fall.

GEO 505. Planning Design. 3 Credits.
Methods and techniques of planning design. Presentation of statistical data in map form. Consent: Permission of the Department required to add. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 506. Seminar in Physical Geography. 3 Credits.
This course examines aspects of the physical environment that must be considered when planning any site for urban, industrial, or suburban activity. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 507. Internet Applications of Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.
The course examines the principles and applications of web-based and mobile geographic information systems (GIS). Internet map services, navigation/GPS systems and cell-phone based applications are examined through the use of ArcGIS Internet map Server, Google Earth, Google APIs and cell phone applications. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

GEO 509. Quantitative Methods in Planning/Geography. 3 Credits.
Fundamental statistics, methods, and techniques applied to geographic research and decision making, such as urban and regional planning. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 521. Suburbanization and Land Development. 3 Credits.
Component systems and functional operations of urban/suburban communities, including ecological and demographic aspects. Emphasis on organization, development, change, and problems of communities. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 524. Population Processes. 3 Credits.
Characteristics and distribution of world populations are studied. The dynamic processes of population change (mortality, fertility, and migration) are examined. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 525. Urban and Regional Planning. 3 Credits.
Application of community-planning theories and methods to designated urban and regional systems. Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

GEO 526. Metropolitan Systems and Problems. 3 Credits.
Urbanization processes and problems; urban systems in the expanding metropolitan and regional setting; present and proposed efforts to solve urban problems. Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

GEO 527. Planning Law and Organization. 3 Credits.
An insight into the role of federal, state, and local governments in instituting, executing, and judicially reviewing laws and regulations pertaining to land uses. Emphasis on the legal organization of the planning process, particularly at the local level. Major land-use court cases are presented and reviewed. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 531. Transportation Planning. 3 Credits.
Transportation issues that face today’s planners are studied and various means of analysis demonstrated. Computer assignments use EMME/2 package. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 534. Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.
The common principles and concepts of Geographic Information Systems; examination of the theory and tools of spatial data analysis through specific applications. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

GEO 536. Environmental Planning. 3 Credits.
In-depth instruction on the concepts and tools of environmental planning which include landscape form and function in planning. Applications to local and regional issues are stressed. Typically offered in Fall.

GEO 538. Environmental Modeling with Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.
This course reviews the principles of geodatabase development and use in geographic information systems (GIS). It is a study of how GIS software is used to enhance decision-making process through advanced database operation. The course includes an in-depth exploration of database design and management techniques. The process of creating information models of real world processes is examined through the development of a geodatabase. These data will then be spatially examined and manipulated to review the process of database development and decision-making. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Fall & Summer.

GEO 544. Geography of Latin America. 3 Credits.
Regional geography of Latin America: its physical base, settlement, agriculture, demography, and manufacturing. Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

GEO 545. Geography of Europe (Excluding Russia). 3 Credits.
Regional study of Europe. Influences of environmental factors, such as climate, landforms, and soils on the economic, social, and political condition of European nations. Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

GEO 554. Geography and Planning of Housing. 3 Credits.
This course provides an overview of the spatial, economic, social, physical and political forces that structure and affect current housing conditions and prospects. This course introduces key concepts and institutions that influence the production, distribution, maintenance and location of housing. The Philadelphia metropolitan area is emphasized as a case study for understanding the implications of present housing geography trends for the future, as well as the development of rational housing policies and plans. Typically offered in Fall.

GEO 556. Introduction to Business GIS. 3 Credits.
This course makes use of large datasets and GIS in analytical studies and strategic decision-making in the commercial sector, involving store location, geodemographics and marketing information. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 572. Seminar in Resource Management. 3 Credits.
Applied research problem solving for resource management and environmental issues designed for an individual student or team-study basis. Typically offered in Spring. Repeatable for Credit.

GEO 577. Geodatabases. 3 Credits.
This course reviews the principles of geodatabase development and use in GIS. It is also a study of how GIS software is used to enhance the decision making process through advanced database operations. Using ESRI’s ArcGIS software, students will add demographic, environmental, political, economic, and other types of data to GIS applications. These data will then be spatially examined and manipulated to review the process of database development and decision making. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 584. Applications of Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.
This course builds on GEO 534, expands upon important technical concepts in greater detail, and explores a range of GIS application areas. Pre / Co requisites: GEO 584 requires prerequisite of GEO 534. Distance education offering may be available. Typically offered in Spring.

GEO 585. Geography Field Methods. 3 Credits.
An advanced field course that includes urban and land-use studies. Use of field methods, mapping, and data collection for geographical reports. Typically offered in Fall.

GEO 600. Independent Research in Geography. 3 Credits.
Research projects, reports, and readings in geography. Consent: Permission of the Department required to add. Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer. Repeatable for Credit.
GEO 610. Thesis in Geography. 3-6 Credits.
A thesis is developed on a research problem for which the student formulates a theory, proposition or hypothesis, and investigates available information on the subject.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.

GEO 615. Internship in Urban and Regional Planning. 3-6 Credits.
On-the-job experience in the application of theory, execution of substantive research, and provision of service with professional agencies at selected off-campus locations.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.

GEO 999. Transfer Credits (Graduate). 3-9 Credits.
Transfer Credits.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Repeatable for Credit.