Geography Career Outlook 2014–2015

Geography Programs Available at Bemidji State University:
Major: Geography (B.A.) (B.S.); Wilderness Management (B.A.S.) based on articulation agreement with Vermilion Community College—Refer to separate Career Outlook
Fields of Emphasis: Physical Geography; Planning; Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Related Field of Emphasis: Social Studies: Geography (B.A.)
Minors: Geography, Graphic Information Systems (GIS)
Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/geography

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:
Geography is the study of phenomena and events on the earth's surface, including the activities of human beings. Technical skills in aerial photography, mapping, computer applications, survey research, and writing are the geographer's tools. All terrestrial activities are subject to geographic analysis. Students in the program learn specific geographic techniques and their application on regional, national, and global levels. Studies in the field, and in effective communication and higher-level problem solving, further prepare students for immediate employment in entry-level jobs and for graduate study. Language study and a strong minor (such as computer science, applied public policy, international studies, space science, or biology) enhance employment options for students with bachelor's degrees. Graduate study broadens employment opportunities.

The Wilderness Management and Outdoor Recreation Planning Degree is for students transferring to Bemidji State University with a Wilderness Management A.S. from Vermilion Community College.

EMPLOYMENT AREAS:
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that Surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying and mapping technicians held about 118,500 jobs in 2012. The architectural, engineering, and related services industry—including firms that provided surveying and mapping services to other industries on a contract basis—provided 6 out of 10 jobs for these workers. Federal, State, and local governmental agencies provided about 15 percent of these jobs. Major Federal Government employers are the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Most surveyors in State and local government work for highway departments or urban planning and redevelopment agencies. Utility companies also employ surveyors, cartographers, photogrammetrists, and surveying technicians.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR GEOGRAPHY MAJORS IN MINNESOTA:
MnCareers reports there are currently 970 surveying and mapping technicians and 660 surveyors employed in Minnesota. The job outlook is fair for surveying and mapping technicians and good for surveyors. Surveying and mapping technicians have a median salary of $24.50 per hour; surveyors earn approximately $29.30 per hour. Opportunities are best for those with training in G.P.S. and G.I.S. Surveyors are required to have licensure.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR GEOGRAPHY MAJORS NATIONWIDE:
Focus™ reports that the nationwide demand for cartographers is projected to grow faster than average through 2022, with people established in their career generally earning between $41,050 and $71,030 per year. The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that for cartographers and photogrammetrists the median income was about $55,970 in May 2011, while surveyors averaged $55,590 and surveying and mapping technicians earned an average of $39,850.

PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES:
Of the Bemidji State University 2012-2013 Geography B.S. graduates 66.7% obtained related employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.
LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment with one year of graduation.)

Arrow of the North, LLC
Survey Tech
International Falls, MN

BCL Appraisals
Real Estate Appraiser
Minneapolis, MN

Beltrami County
Land Records Office Support Specialist
Bemidji, MN

Bullberry Systems, Inc.
GIS
Bismarck, ND

Carlson McCain, Inc.
GIS Specialist
Bismarck, ND

City of Maple Grove
GIS Intern
Maple Grove, MN

Digital Mapping Solutions
GIS Analyst
Scottsdale, AZ

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
GIS Intern
Bismarck, ND

East View Cartographic
Procurement Officer
Plymouth, MN

Envirobate, Inc.
GIS Supervisor
Minneapolis, MN

Farm Service Agency
GIS
Bemidji, MN

GIS Specialist
St. Cloud, MN

Great River Energy/United Services Group
GIS Technician
Elk River, MN

Hubbard County
GIS Technician
Park Rapids, MN

Itasca County
Assessment Database Technician
Grand Rapids, MN

Kadiman Lee and Jackson
GIS Analyst I
Dickinson, ND

Karvacco Engineering
Surveyor
Bemidji, MN

Keweenaw Adventure Company
Kayak Guide
Copper Harbor, MI

Lakemaster Lake Maps
GIS Analyst
Little Falls, MN

Leech Lake Indian Reservation
Community Land Use Developer
Cass Lake, MN

McGhie & Betts Environmental Services, Inc.
Assistant Wetland Specialist
Rochester, MN

Midcontinent Communications
GIS Data Coordinator
Sioux Falls, SD

MN Department of Transportation
Research Analyst
St. Paul, MN

MN State Colleges and Universities
Business Intelligence
St. Paul, MN

Moore Engineering
GIS Technician
Fargo, ND

National Park Service
Lead Forestry Technician
Van Buren, MO

National Park Service-Yellowstone NP
Cartographic Technician
Mammoth, WY

Planner
Central South Dakota Enhancement Dis.
Pierre, SD

Polaris Industries, Inc.
Inventory Analyst
Medina, MN

Pro West & Associates, Inc.
GIS Specialist
Walker, MN

Science Applications Int'l. Corp.
Geospatial Analyst/Cartographer
St. Louis, MO

Search Resources/Beltrami Co.
Computer Research/Team Specialist
Bemidji, MN

Seoul National University
GIS Developer/Analyst
Seoul, Korea

Stearns County
GIS Technician I
St. Cloud, MN

The Shopping Center Group
GIS Market Analyst
Tampa, FL

Tier 3 Incorporated
GIS Technician
Stillwater, MN

Ulland Brothers
Engineer/Surveyor
Hibbing, MN

United States National Parks System
Fire Technician
International Falls, MN

US Forest Service
Forestry Technician
Walker, MN

USDA
Lead Digitizer
Bemidji, MN

USDA-Forest Service
Cartographic Technician
Grand Forks, ND

USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Center
IAP Contractor
Jamestown, ND

White Earth Natural Resources Department
Director
Mahnomen, MN

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU GEOGRAPHY GRADUATES HAVE GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:

Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids, MN
St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, Winona, MN

Lake Superior College, Duluth, MN
University of Redlands, Redlands, CA

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
Vermilion Community College, Ely, MN
Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
FOCUS II. Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2015)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 207 Sattgast Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.

For more job listings please visit:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/