Geography

Program-specific competencies

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience. UVic students in the Geography program develop the following program-specific competencies.

Knowledge base of geography

Demonstrates familiarity with the major concepts, approaches of study, theoretical perspectives, and findings in geography

- Demonstrates knowledge of major areas of study in geography (human and physical) and the relationships between these areas of study
- Demonstrates knowledge of environmental, cultural, political, and economic factors that shape the geographic character of cities, regions, and the global system
- Demonstrates comprehension of the nature of change within human and physical environments
- Demonstrates spatial knowledge of major issues confronting society

Knowledge of physical geography and the physical environment

Understands the fields of physical geography (biogeography, climatology, and geomorphology) and how these contribute to the study of the physical environment

- Learns about the natural forces that affect weather, the ocean, and the earth
- Studies the processes of water movement in the hydrologic cycle
- Studies and analyzes the spatial organization of biotic systems
- Studies the physical landscapes of different places, regions, and the world
- Applies knowledge of the physical environment to resource management, planning, and conservation

Knowledge of human geography

Understands the fields of human geography (cultural geography, economic geography, urban geography, international development) and how these contribute to the study of the human landscape

- Has knowledge of the spatial patterns of economic activity, cultural groups, social issues, and international well-being
- Studies processes that influence the economic, cultural, and political development of nations
- Applies knowledge of life in cities to the planning of the urban landscape
- Learns about the complexity of forces that shape the human landscape
Research methods in geography

Understands the use of qualitative and quantitative methods in geography and how they can be used to interpret physical and human landscapes

- Learns basic qualitative and quantitative methods and their links to statistical analysis
- Gains facility with geomatics, (Geographical Information Systems, air photo interpretation, and remote sensing)
- Gains experience in field work, archival research, and interviewing procedures

UVic Co-op and Career worked with the UVic Department of Geography to develop this competency document.