How to Select Your Geography Degree Program
Philip M. Wakefield, PhD.

Step 1: Have a careful look at all of the degree programs offered through the Geography Department so that you understand, in general, what is expected of you for each of the four years that make up a degree program.

Step 2: Next, read the course descriptions for all of the 400-level courses offered by the department. Make a list of those courses that really interest you and that you want to learn more about. At the same time, list the prerequisites for each of those courses. If you need to, contact the department for more information on specific courses.

Step 3: Now, list the prerequisite courses for the 400-level courses that you chose, read their descriptions and note their respective prerequisites. Most will probably be 300-level courses. At the same time, read through the rest of the 300-level courses and make a list of any that might interest you. Make a list of all of the 300-level courses you must take (i.e. prerequisites) along with any 300-level courses you want to take. List their respective 100-level or 200-level prerequisites. If a 400-level course only has a 200-level prerequisite, then list that 200-level course and it's prerequisites.

Step 4: Repeat Step 3 for the 200-level courses and then the 100-level courses. When you are done you should have a list of courses starting at the 400-level and finishing with the 100-level courses. The list will include those courses you must take as prerequisites along with those courses that interest you.

Step 5: Look at all of the degree programs offered by the Geography department and their requirements. Referring to your list of courses, identify which program best fits your interests. Also, look at the specific co-requisites (i.e. courses from other departments) requested in that program and their respective prerequisites. There may also be some 100-level or 200-level Geography courses that you must take as part of our commitment to give you a well rounded and grounded education. If you are comfortable with those co-requisites and satisfied with your list of courses, then you have found your degree program.

If at anytime you wish to reconsider the degree program you have selected or you have any questions about your degree program, you are welcome to contact the department’s Undergraduate Advisor, Phil Wakefield at: philw@geo.uvic.ca.