

# PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - GEOGRAPHY

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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. We worked with the Department of Geography to develop this document.

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## 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