Geography, B.A.

Find your future at Cal Poly Humboldt. Working in small classes, inside and outside, and in our state-of-the-art geospatial lab, you explore humankind’s ever-changing relationship to the environment. Then you use what you know, undertaking important research topics that interest you—like global warming, deforestation, ethnic conflict, urban planning and much more—in places that inspire you. Our professional-minded students also carry out internships and attend regional and national conferences, where their projects earn major awards and the respect of their fellow geographers. And we’re known far and wide for preparing students for success in graduate school and on the job.

Experience Your Learning
You’ll work alongside faculty on research in state-of-the-art labs and out in the field as you explore humankind’s ever-changing relationship to the environment.

The Dendroecology Lab supports research in the areas of physical geography, vegetation and disturbance ecology, dendroecology, landscape ecology, and geospatial analysis.

Our Kosmos Lab supports cartography, geospatial, and geographic research courses.

Field Studies allow you to use what you’ve learned to undertake important research topics that interest you in places that inspire you, from Northern California to Tibet.

Our students attend regional and national conferences, where their projects consistently earn major awards and the respect of their fellow geographers.

Did you know?
- Humboldt Geographic is a journal produced by Humboldt faculty and students
- There are many opportunities to work on applied projects with faculty during the academic year or summer.
- Students can take advantage of one-unit weekend field trips exploring issues like natural resource management and historical and cultural geographies of California.
- You’ll develop professional skills in writing, research, presentations and the latest technologies including geographic information systems, remote sensing and, yes, mapping of all kinds.
Academics & Options

Geography, B.A.

The major in geography at Humboldt analyzes physical and cultural patterns and processes as they occur at local, regional, and global levels. Upper division courses cover such topics as economic geography, environmental conservation, human migrations, water resources, climatology, and regional studies. Special topics courses include arid lands, global ecosystems, tourism and American cultural landscapes.

Minor

Geography Minor

The Minor in Geography offers students a broad-based background in the discipline and an opportunity to specialize in a particular area of interest through upper division electives.

Get Involved

Get engaged and learn from a community of your peers who share a love of geography, the environment, and spatial analysis. Our active student organizations include the Geospatial Club, The Cartographic Society of Cal Poly Humboldt, and the Natural Resources Club, among others.

Careers

Equipped with critical thinking skills that integrate knowledge of the human world and physical environment, combined with latest in geospatial technical skills, our majors are prepared to pursue meaningful careers in a wide range of fields.

- Aerial Photo Interpreter
- Cartographer
- City Planner
- Climatologist
- Demographer
- Environmental Planner
- GIS Coordinator
- Intelligence Analyst
- Land Use Management Specialist
- Map Editor

The Kosmos Lab is the beating heart of the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis for many students. It is where the deal is sealed for potential GIS students who are on the fence. It is where students share tips and tricks not covered in the formal classroom.”

Kourtney Boone (‘21, Geography)