Geography Major Concentrations
Suggested Elective Courses

NATURE AND SOCIETY

Potential careers include Natural Resource and Wildlife Manager, Land and Water Conservation Specialist, Environmental Planner, Environmental Hazards Analyst, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Manager, Sustainable Development Program Officer, Environmental Educator, Environmental Justice Advocate, Environmental Communication Specialist, Corporate Sustainability Officer, and Tour Guide. Potential employers include federal, state, and local government agencies (e.g., National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, McLean County Regional Planning Commission); non-governmental organizations (e.g., Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, Oxfam America); and the private sector (e.g., energy utilities, natural resource producers, environmental consulting firms, waste management companies, real estate developers). Following this concentration is good preparation for graduate studies in fields including nature-society geography, environmental studies, or sustainability studies.

Suggested Faculty Mentors: Matt Himley, matthimley@ilstu.edu, 309-438-8498
Jonathan Thayn, jthayn@ilstu.edu, 309-438-8112

Minimum of 15 hours from the following geography courses*:

- GEO 207 Natural Disasters
- GEO 211 Earth’s Dynamic Weather
- GEO 235.02 Latin America
- GEO 265 Our National Parks
- GEO 304 GIS Applications
- GEO 305 Remote Sensing
- GEO 306.22 Geography of Chicago
- GEO 308 Quantitative Methods II
- GEO 310 Field Geography
- GEO 334 Political Ecology
- GEO 336 Urban Geography
- GEO 342 Economic Geography
- GEO 344 Biogeography

Suggested complementary courses, especially if pursuing a graduate degree*:

- BSC 201 Ecology
- BSC 337 Restoration Ecology
- BSC 337 Restoration Ecology
- COM 274 Environmental Communication
- ECO 255 Introduction to Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
- ENG 249 Technical & Professional Writing I
- ENG 249 Technical & Professional Writing I
- HIS 240 American Environmental History
- PHI 236 Values and the Environment
- PHY 207 Energy and Climate Change
- POS 236 Environmental Politics and Policy
- SOC 330 Society and Environment
- SOC 362 Population

Recommended Minors: Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Environmental Studies (highly recommended), Foreign Language (any), Physics, Political Science, Sociology.

* Some of these courses may have prerequisites.