Geography Major—Urban/Suburban Track

____ 16 Units of Geography Core

_____ 100 Introduction to Geography 1
_____ 210 Physical Geography 5
_____ 230 Human Geography 3
_____ 270 Introduction to Mapping 3
_____ 400 Capstone in Geography 1

____ 4XX One course from list below:
   440 Applied GIS Applications OR
   444 Urban Land Use Planning OR
   452 Cultural Ecology & Sustainable Development OR
   455 Advanced Topics in Human Geography OR
   460 Applied GIS in Physical Geography OR
   470 Applied Environmental & Natural Resources OR
   485 Internship in Geography OR
   491 Travel Studies — Geology OR
   492 Field Course — Geography or Geology OR
   499 Geography Thesis

____ 3 Units of Urban/Suburban Track Core

_____ 344 Urban Geography 3

____ 6-9 Units of Electives from Urban/Suburban Track Offerings

_____ 334 Historical Geography 3
_____ 340 Economic Geography 3
_____ 444 Urban Land Use Planning 3

____ 6-9 Units of Geography Technical/Applied Courses

_____ 290 Spatial Analysis 3
_____ 370 Geographical Information Systems 3
_____ 377 Remote Sensing 3
_____ 440 Applied GIS: Applications for Business and Industry 3
_____ 470 Applied GIS: Environmental and Natural Resource 3

____ 0-3 Units of 300 or 400 Level Geography Courses

_____ 3 Units in English

_____ 372 Technical and Scientific Writing

34 Minimum Units in Geography Courses

AN APPROVED MINOR IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MAJOR.
ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR GEOGRAPHY MAJORS IN THE URBAN/AREA TRACK

Advising and Involvement in the Geography Department: Students should regularly consult with their main advisor in the Geography Department. All students are strongly advised to become involved in departmental activities such as the Geography Club, undergraduate research opportunities, field trips and attending guest lectures.

Career Choices with This Major Emphasis: The Urban/Area track in Geography emphasizes understanding of the urban environment (commercial, industrial, social, planning, and historical patterns) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Individuals possessing this conceptual and applied knowledge combined with strong technical skills (GIS) are in high demand in both the private and public sector. Recent graduates have gone to work for such companies as Kemper Insurance, Kohl’s Department Stores, Volvo Motors, Johnson Controls, Newspaper Services of America and public sector agencies such U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, SEWRPC and Jefferson County Planning Dept. These graduates are typically involved in a wide range of activities such as site location, target marketing, transportation planning, urban planning, market research, and growth forecasting. All of these activities share in common an understanding of GIS and the urban landscape.

Minors: Given the wide ranges of career choices available to Geography majors a minor should be selected that compliments your career and personal interests. Students highly interested in planning related careers may want to take the General Geography major track and the interdisciplinary Urban and Area Development Minor.

Graduate School: Many students seek to continue and specialize their education beyond the undergraduate degree in Geography. Unlike undergraduate education, graduate programs provide students who possess good grades, a good Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score, and strong faculty letters of recommendation with generous funding and tuition reimbursement. An excellent place to start your search for graduate programs is the Guide to Geography Departments found in the Geography Department office, Upham 219. Also all interested students should plan to take the GRE exam early in their senior year.

Field Study Courses: Geography is a field-oriented discipline. There is no substitute for field experience. All majors should look for ways to gain this experience. Opportunities in the department include regularly scheduled United States and Europe field courses. Check the Fall/Spring/Summer timetables for course listings. There are also semester study abroad opportunities available for students. International Education and Programs in Baker 127 is one source of information on semester aboard programs.

Student Portfolio: Students should be maintaining a portfolio that will contain examples of their work. Examples found in most students’ portfolios include such items as maps, GIS projects, papers, and internship reports. An excellent way to collect and display this work is to place all materials in plastic notebook sleeves that are inserted into a three ring binder. A well-organized portfolio will demonstrate your technical and writing skills. This will increase the likelihood that you will get the internship or job you are seeking.

Geography Internships: All geography seniors should strongly consider obtaining applied experience through the Geography Dept. internship program. Virtually all geography internships are paid. While most internships have been developed by department faculty students can, with the approval of a supervising faculty member, develop their own internship opportunities.