

# Geography, Geology, and the Environment



## program

Students in our department have six different degree paths to study the earth and people's relations to it. An interest in the physical nature of the earth system would lead to a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Environmental Geosciences. The BA program allows more flexibility in choosing electives to complement the student's interests and career goals. In the BS program, the student can focus on Geology or Environmental Science. The Geology track requires more credits in natural science and mathematics than the BA and is designed to prepare students for entry into the workforce or into postgraduate programs. The Environmental Science track involves a more interdisciplinary approach and integrates knowledge from geology, meteorology, biology, and chemistry in the study of the earth.



In addition to studying the nature of the earth, BA and BS students in Geography investigate the nature of places on the earth's surface and the geographic study of environmental, economic, cultural, and political processes. The BA in Geography has a classic liberal arts approach while the BS in Applied Geographic Technology focuses on the fast growing field of geographic information technology. The BS program in Environmental Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach and integrates knowledge from the social and natural sciences in the study of environmental issues. Environmental Studies has a focus on policy and a variety of research methods, while Environmental Science emphasizes the scientific method and lab work.

All of our programs emphasize the collection, analysis, and representation of earth data at scales ranging from the local to the global. Opportunities abound for students to engage in fieldwork, internships, and in the production of research with faculty members in our department. Recent field trips, course travels, and research expeditions have visited local and distant sites such as Costa Rica, Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Ontario, Newfoundland, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, South Dakota, Maryland, New York City, and Washington, D.C. This list doesn't include the numerous cities across the U.S. where our students have attended professional conferences. If you enjoy learning about the earth and its peoples and landscapes, either in your backyard or far away, our programs offer a wealth of opportunities.

## Majors and Minors

### Majors:

- Environmental Geoscience (BA)
- Environmental Geoscience: Pre-Masters of Ed. (BA)
- Environmental Geoscience: Environmental Science (BS)
- Environmental Geoscience: Geology (BS)
- Geography (BA)
- Geography:
  - Applied Geographic Technology (BS)
- Geography - Environment and Society (BS)
- Geography - Environmental Studies (BS)

### Minors:

- Environmental Science
- Geographic Information Technology
- Geography
- Geology
- Meteorology

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## a student-oriented department

Our department's primary objective is high quality education. A recent external review of our department had this to say: "The faculty is well qualified and dedicated, providing excellent on-campus and field instruction. The students are articulate, enthused and vocal in their support for the quality of their educational experience." Our educational mission is enhanced by our facilities in the brand new Advanced Technology and Science Hall. We have two general-purpose geology laboratories, an upper division geology lab, a rock preparation lab, a cartography/geographic information systems (GIS) lab, and an advanced cartography/GIS lab. We also have extensive teaching and research collections of rocks and minerals, state-of-the-art teaching and research microscopes, several dozen global positioning system units, and a large map collection.

Our department excels at providing professional and career opportunities that enable students to utilize the knowledge, skills, and values developed in our programs. Professional development is fostered through internships, numerous field experiences, undergraduate research activities, capstone activities, and attendance at local, regional, and national conferences. In recent years our students have had internships with dozens of private and public organizations. The external review of our department noted that the criterion of providing opportunities for students to interact with professionals in the field was "met with strength."



## student organizations

- Gamma Theta Upsilon - Honorary Society for Geography and Environmental Studies students
- Sigma Gamma Epsilon - National Geology Honorary for Geology and Environmental Science students
- Geology and Environmental Science Club
- Geography and Environmental Studies Club

## career opportunities

Students in the Geography, Geology, and The Environment Department are provided a base in liberal arts skills (critical thinking, writing, and speaking) and in analytical skills such as data collection in the field, in the library, and on the computer; the use of global positioning systems; the use of mapping, spreadsheet, and database software; and knowledge of laboratory procedures. Our alumni web page shows the wide variety of careers that our graduates have pursued in the private and public sector as well as graduate school. A recent article in a geology journal demonstrated that there are many more geology jobs available for geology graduates than jobs for graduates with other science degrees. A 2004 issue of Nature noted that the U.S. Department of Labor identified geotechnology as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, along with biotechnology and nanotechnology. Many of our students have found work that allows them to address important environmental and social issues. Representative employment areas for our graduates include environmental consulting, pollution remediation, environmental law or public policy, outdoor education, resource management, geographic information systems analysis, nonprofit environmental organizations, and planning.

## Contact Info:

### Admissions Office

146 North Hall Welcome Center  
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Phone: 724-738-2015  
E-mail: [admissions@sru.edu](mailto:admissions@sru.edu)  
Campus Tours: 1-800-929-4778  
Web: [www.sru.edu/undergraduateadmissions](http://www.sru.edu/undergraduateadmissions)

### Department Contact:

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Slippery Rock University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution  
A member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education