GEOGRAPHY and GEOINFORMATION SCIENCE
http://ggs.gmu.edu/index.html

Name and description of the field:
Geography is the study of the earth as a total system, encompassing the physical environment and the human environment we have shaped. As a discipline, Geography bridges the gap between natural and social sciences and touches on the humanities. Its topics deal with the spatial aspects of physical environmental processes, and of human behavior and people's perceptions of and subsequent interactions with their total environment. Today's Geography major understands and is equipped to deal with complex problems of modern society, including population growth, resource depletion, natural hazards, international conflict, development of ghettos, location of shopping centers, and transportation problems.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?
Geography teaches or reinforces manual, verbal, quantitative, analytical, leadership, intuitive, computer and creative skills with such courses as: aerial photography, cartography, Geographic Information Systems, computer cartography, conservation of resources and the environment, economic geography, spatial analysis, climatology, political geography, population geography, and urban geography.

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?
Both a B.A. and a B.S. are offered. See department for more information.

Is it possible to minor in Geography?
Yes, a Geography minor complements many other fields such as Biology, Government, History or International Studies. A Certificate in Geographical Information Systems is also available.

What are recent graduates doing?
A degree in Geography is appropriate preparation for students wanting to do graduate work in the following areas: Geography, Cartography, Environmental Management, Urban and Regional Planning, Remote Sensing Technology and Applications, Climatology and Geographic Information Systems.

The geography degree program is oriented to skill training of a specific nature. This training, however, can be applied towards a wide range of possible job titles, such as the following: Geographic information systems, hydrologist, imagery analyst, cartographer, land use planner, demographer, location or site analyst, photo/image analyst, interpreter, environmental scientist, photogrammetrist, Social Science Technician, geography teacher, political geographer, geographic information specialist/analyst, climatologist, geoscientist I, and transportation planner.

In planning course work in relationship to career goals, it is helpful to choose electives with some awareness of what supplemental skills they provide and how these skills will influence employability. Some elective courses which will assist in preparing Geography majors for a variety of employment opportunities are: computer science, technical and report writing, math and statistics, government, oceanography, physical geology, geomorphology, biology and ecology, anthropology, and economics.

Employing Organizations:
Federal Government:

State and Local Government:
- Education, environmental protection agencies, mapping agencies, and planning agencies.

Private Industry and Non-profit Organizations:
EXPLORING MAJORS

Boeing, GeoEye, AMEC, Cartographic firms, conservation societies, data analysis firms, engineering and urban development consulting firms, environmental management firms, geographic societies, libraries, industrial or commercial location firms, photo interpretation and photogrammetry firms, and travel and tourism planning companies.

Specific positions and the organizations hiring Recent Graduates include:
Organizations: GeoEye, Environmental Security International, SAIC, USGS, Lansing Bldg Products
Positions: GeoSpatial Analyst, Environmental Management & Security Associate, GIS Analyst, GIS specialist, Operations Manager

Resources for further information:
A key element in effective decision making is having sufficient information about the major or career being explored. Sources of information include people in the field, professional associations relating to the field, faculty and your career services counselor. Below are additional resources to aid in exploration:

Printed Resources (Career Services Library, 3400 SUB I):

Online Resources: http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/geog.htm
Register for HireMason, Career Services’ database of internships and job opportunities


Local Professional Associations:
- American Congress of Surveying & Mapping - http://acsm.net/

Mason Student Clubs/Orgs/Societies Science and Technology Umbrella:
http://si.gmu.edu/orgs/recognized_orgs.php#stu

What kinds of practical experience are recommended to explore Geography further?
See online and printed resources above. Also consult HireMason, faculty, and the Geography website - http://www.gmu.edu/departments/geog/Careers.html

Whom should students contact for further information?

Barry Kronenfeld
Dept. of Geography & Geoinformation Science
Research I, Room 231
703-993-9299
bkronenf@gmu.edu

Academic Advising and Transfer Center
3500 SUB I
703-993-2470

University Career Services
3400 SUB I
703-993-2370

bkronenf@gmu.edu