GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY

College of Arts and Sciences

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Corey M. Johnson, Department Head
Dan Royall, Associate Department Head
Selina Sultana, Director of Graduate Study
Jay Lennartson, Director of Undergraduate Studies
Aaron S. Allen, Director of Environment & Sustainability Program

Mission Statement
The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability is a student-centered department having a three-fold integrated mission encompassing teaching, scholarship, and service. The Department offers programs presenting an integrative perspective on the relations among social, political, economic, and environmental phenomena occurring across space. The Department is committed to teaching the concepts and research methods that prepare majors for professional careers and/or advanced study. Non-majors who take classes in the Department are provided with the knowledge needed to understand the nature of the human and environmental patterns found in the world around them. Graduate student education is focused on preparing students for advanced professional careers and/or further graduate study. The Department is committed to excellence in both theoretical and applied research. Undergraduate and graduate student involvement in research is encouraged to develop student understanding, reasoning, and technical skills. Through scholarship, teaching, and service, the Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability is dedicated to improving our communities and the planet.

About
The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers curricula with three principal objectives: to promote the understanding of the locational dimensions of human behavior in their environmental context; to offer courses of study through which concepts and methods are applied to understanding economic, environmental, and social problems at the local, regional, and global scales; and to promote sustainability through the interconnected lenses of social equity, the environment, economy, and aesthetics. Thus, the Department contributes an important dimension to the university student’s liberal education and provides practical training in important contemporary areas of concern as well as the background appropriate for certain vocations.

Graduates of geography programs have found careers in business and industry, in urban and regional planning agencies, in departments of federal and state governments, and in teaching. Job titles include city or regional planner, cartographer, demographer, resource analyst, land or economic developer, location analyst, and teacher. Many graduates find that an undergraduate degree in geography is an excellent foundation for advanced graduate work or professional training in planning, business, or law.

Graduates of environmental and sustainability programs go on to careers in non-profits, government, and the private sector as well as to graduate studies in a variety of disciplines. Career paths are numerous and include advocacy, agriculture, business, design, education, enforcement, journalism, law, nature and land protection, organizing for social and environmental justice, tourism and recreation, etc. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, participate regularly in internships and study abroad, and benefit from personalized advising.

Special facilities of the department include fully equipped laboratories in computer cartography, geographic information systems, remote sensing, and physical geography, plus a 130-acre field camp for instruction and research.

Graduate Programs
The Department of Geography, Environment, and Sustainability offers a M.A. in Applied Geography, a M.S. in Environment and Sustainability, a Ph.D. in Geography, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Global and Regional Studies Geography, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Sustainability. The department also offers a a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Urban and Economic Development jointly with the Department of Political Science; for more information, see the program page at https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/political-science/urban-economic-development-pbc/.

The programs focus on the application of theory and methods in geography toward the understanding of problems related to economic development, environmental quality, population change, and social well-being in urban, rural, regional, and international contexts.

Environment & Sustainability Program
Aaron S. Allen, Director and Honors Program Liaison

The Environment & Sustainability Program is an interdisciplinary program that fosters understanding of the relationships between human societies and the natural, physical, and biological settings in which life on Earth exists. Our three majors and two minors integrate perspectives of the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

The Program degrees build on the unique definition of sustainability at UNC Greensboro (http://sustainability.uncg.edu), where “Academics, operations, and outreach are conducted with careful attention to the enduring interconnectedness of social equity, the environment, the economy, and aesthetics.” Our degrees require electives in each of those four areas: society and equity, natural science of the environment, economics and development, and ethics and aesthetics.

Students work with diverse faculty and staff from across campus and community (1) to learn how to gather and integrate information about environmental and sustainability problems from multiple disciplines, (2) to think critically about the causes of environmental and sustainability problems, (3) to propose effective solutions and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and (4) to communicate their ideas clearly. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and are eligible for internships and study abroad, and all receive expert advising from the Program Director. Graduates will be well prepared for roles as educated citizens who are especially well informed about the environment and for numerous career paths that require a broad range of knowledge about environmental and sustainability issues.

Professor
Rick L. Bunch
Keith G. Debbage
Corey Michael Johnson
Paul A. Knapp
Jeffrey C. Patton

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Selima Sultana

Associate Professor
Zhi-Jun Liu
Phillip Daniel Royall
Roy S. Stine

Assistant Professor
Wenliang Li
Sarah J Praskievicz
John G. Stehlin

Senior Lecturer
Mary Bee Hall-Brown
G. Jay Lennartson

Senior Academic Professional
James A. Nelson

Graduate-level faculty

- Geography Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-minor)
- Sustainability Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/sustainability-studies-minor)
- Geography Second Academic Concentration (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-second-academic-concentration)
- Geography, Ph.D. (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/geography-environment-sustainability/geography-phd)