The degree programs in Geography and Earth Science synthesize the natural and social sciences to explore the relationship between people and the environment. Students can take courses in environmental analysis, global change, field mapping, the urban environment, natural resources and geologic processes. Additional topics explored include resource consumption, environmental legislation, and landscape change. Understanding the physical and social processes that shape the landscape is essential for improving the quality of life and solving today's environmental issues.

The department’s focus is on field activities and hands-on experiences. Many of our courses include field trips that provide opportunities for students to experience firsthand the topics covered in class. Field trip locations include Death Valley, Mojave National Preserve, Owens Valley, Santa Monica Mountains, Joshua Tree National Park, and Mono Lake.

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences has major options that allow students to complete either a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree. Minor options include Earth Science, Geography and Environmental Studies. We also offer a certificate program in Geotechniques including GIS and Remote Sensing. The combination of classroom, field and lab experiences enables our students to find employment in diverse fields such as urban/regional planning, environmental monitoring and consulting, and natural resources management. Many of our majors go on to graduate school.

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

~John Muir