

# Geography and Geology

## Program Overview

Geography is subdivided into human geography (study of location and other aspects of human activities) and physical geography (study of landforms, geology, climate, etc.). Geography courses usually include subject matter related to both the social sciences, sociology and economics for example; and the natural sciences, geology, biology and physics for example. However, geography tends to take a more generalist and interdisciplinary approach than other social and physical sciences.

Geography is also characterized by a unique spatial perspective. Geographers are interested in explaining the how and why of the distribution of natural and human produced phenomena. Consequently all areas of geography involve the use of maps, and geographers have led the way in the development and use of exciting new spatial information technologies like geographic information systems (GIS).

## Self-Study

Geography and Geology launched its program review in academic year 2023/24 with a Self-Study. The primary Self-Study writer was Mark Smith, Instructor of Geography and Geology. Additional support was provided by:

- Laura MacKay (Interim Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Community Programs)
- Sandra Enns (Division Chair, Social Sciences)
- Katrina Erdos (Department Chair, Geography and Geology)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Academic Excellence)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Elise Ng (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Integrated Planning and Accountability analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Integrated Planning and Accountability-compiled student administrative data (*e.g.*, headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey

The Self-Study was completed in July 2024.

## External Review

Geography and Geology's external review took place on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Claire Anderson, Faculty, Department of English, Langara College (External Review Chair)
- Rini Sumartojo, PhD, Instructor and Chair, Department of Geography and the Environment, Douglas College
- Tracy Brennand, PhD, Professor & Chair, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University

### Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Geography and Geology created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Increase student enrollment, retention and success
- Goal 2: Revise existing credential and explore opportunities for new ones
- Goal 3: Coordinate courses and credentials with other post-secondary institutions
- Goal 4: Promote geography and geology learning at high schools
- Goal 5: Promote future growth and success of the department

### Examples of Post-Review Successes

Forthcoming.