

Geographers

SOC: 19-3092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$97,200 Median Salary	1,500 Employment	-3.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Computer skills, Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Geographers study the Earth and its features to **analyze spatial relationships, natural processes, and human-environment interactions**. They collect, interpret, and present geographic data to inform planning, policy, and research. Their work is critical in urban planning, environmental management, and geographic information systems (GIS).

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy research, analysis, and understanding how physical and human factors shape the world.

What Do Geographers Do?

These professionals analyze geographic data, conduct research, and provide insights for decision-making and planning.

Common responsibilities include:

- Collecting data on physical, cultural, and environmental features
- Using GIS, mapping software, and spatial analysis tools
- Studying patterns of population, resources, and land use
- Conducting fieldwork and surveys to gather information
- Preparing reports, maps, and presentations for stakeholders
- Advising planners, policymakers, or researchers based on geographic analysis
- Monitoring environmental and urban changes over time

Key Areas of Geography

Geographers may specialize in specific research or applied areas:

- Physical Geography: Studying landforms, climate, vegetation, and natural processes
- Human Geography: Examining populations, culture, and economic systems
- GIS and Spatial Analysis: Mapping and analyzing geographic data using technology
- Environmental and Urban Planning: Supporting sustainable development and resource management
- Research and Policy Development: Informing decisions with geographic insights

Skills and Abilities Needed

Geographers combine analytical, technical, and research skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and research training:

- Bachelor's Degree: Geography, environmental science, or related field
- Advanced Degrees (optional but beneficial): Master's or PhD for research, teaching, or specialized roles
- Internships or Field Experience: Practical training in GIS, mapping, or environmental studies
- Certification (optional): GIS or spatial analysis credentials
- Continuous Learning: Staying current on GIS technology, research methods, and geographic trends

Where Do Geographers Work?

They are employed in organizations that study, manage, or use geographic information:

- Government Agencies
- Environmental and Research Organizations
- Urban and Regional Planning Departments
- GIS and Mapping Firms

- Educational and Academic Institutions

Work environments include offices, laboratories, field sites, and research facilities.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires strong analytical skills, technical proficiency, and attention to detail. Geographers must interpret complex data, conduct fieldwork, and communicate findings effectively.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy research, analysis, and mapping
- Have interest in environmental and human systems
- Are detail-oriented and analytical
- Can work with GIS and other technical tools
- Want a career contributing to planning, policy, and environmental management

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in geography, environmental science, and GIS
- Participate in research projects, fieldwork, or mapping exercises
- Develop skills in spatial analysis, statistics, and data interpretation
- Gain experience with GIS software and mapping tools
- Explore internships or volunteer opportunities in planning, research, or environmental organizations

Geographers analyze the Earth and its systems, using data and technology to inform planning, research, and decision-making in environmental and human contexts.