

GEOG 103

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Geography is a very broad field of study. Usually, people who decide to become geography majors do not do so until further on in their education, usually by means of taking a course related to geography and realizing that they have an interest in the field. Geography can be divided into two main categories; human geography and physical geography. Geographers in the human geography field study certain aspects of our existence as human beings, such as population. Geographers in the physical geography field study the different aspects of our physical earth. These include mountain ranges, bodies of water, climate patterns, plants, and soil. Geographers are able to study these things using technology such as GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and GIS (Geographic Information Systems). GIS helps us make better decisions using geography. For example, we have the ability to track natural disasters such as wildfires with the use of GIS. The GIS and GPS satellites that are constantly orbiting our planet are able to give us the first look into certain disasters that cannot be immediately reached by emergency crews and others. Another example of the use of GIS is trucking companies having the ability to track their vehicles as they make a cross-country trip. These technologies could potentially affect my future career as a nurse if I end up pursuing a job in the emergency room because whether or not patients come into the ER will be dependent upon whether or not the emergency medical staff has access to GPS technology. This will allow them to pinpoint the location of the accident or a patient's address. Without GPS, it is unlikely that the staff will be able to reach the accident

victims or patients, and if no patients come into the ER, I will be unable to treat them. The use of GIS technology in my future profession will allow the hospital that I work for to place their facilities in places where they are most needed. Overall, GIS and GPS technologies have given my future profession, along with many others, advantages that would otherwise not exist.