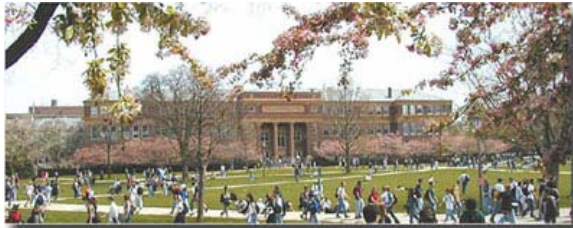


Scholarships for Undergraduate Majors in the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Professor Howard Roepke was a faculty member in the Department of Geography from 1955—1985. Following the death of both Professor and Mrs. Roepke, their estate donated over half a million dollars to support the academic and professional development of undergraduate geography majors at the University of Illinois.

The Department of Geography offers five types of financial awards for undergraduate geography majors. All awards are made on a competitive basis based on academic qualifications and the quality of the application.

- **Academic scholarships for freshmen and sophomores.**

Freshmen and sophomore geography majors may apply for a \$1,000 (per year) academic scholarship. Application forms may

be found on the department website or in the department office at 220 Davenport Hall.

- **Study Abroad.**

Financial awards are available for geography majors to supplement the cost of Study Abroad or Courses Abroad. Awards up to \$1,000 are available. Interested students should apply to the Roepke Fund. Further information can be obtained from the department office.

- **Summer Field Camp**

The Department of Geography is developing a summer field camp program to investigate physical and human dimensions of geographic issues. Costs of travel to attend the summer field camp may be supplemented with an award from the Roepke Fund.

- **Internship support**

Internships with organizations not located in the Champaign-Urbana area and that incur financial hardship for students because of extended travel or lodging may be supplemented with an award from the Roepke Fund. A written description of the nature of the internship, and anticipated costs, as well as documentation of the internship offer, must be submitted to the Department of Geography. Currently, the maximum award is \$1,000.

- **Research Opportunities for juniors and seniors**

Our goal is to encourage undergraduate geography majors to become involved in research. The Roepke Fund facilitates this by providing \$2,000 scholarships for students that work together with faculty on their research projects. Our objectives are to help students learn how to pose research questions, develop hypotheses, perform appropriate data analysis, and discuss/present research findings. In this program undergraduates work directly with a geography faculty member as part of their research team, assisting with data collection, analysis, presentation and writing.

Undergraduate students become a member of a geography faculty members research team either by 1) meeting a faculty member, usually through coursework and talking with that faculty member about their research, 2) a faculty member identifies an undergraduate geography major and discusses a research opportunity with that student, 3) or the student meets with the undergraduate advisor to discuss potential research opportunities with various faculty members.

- **Application Process**

Students should identify the geography faculty member with whom they have

discussed a Research Opportunity, and together with that faculty member, write a one page letter to the Undergraduate Committee that describes the student's research project goals and methods. This faculty member will serve as the Research Opportunity Advisor for that student.

Research Opportunities may be for 1 or 2 semesters or for 2 to 3 months during the summer. The number of hours a student works will depend on the student's course load, the nature of the research project, and the type of work to be performed. Research Opportunities during the academic year will not exceed 10 hours per week, or 40 hours per week during the summer.

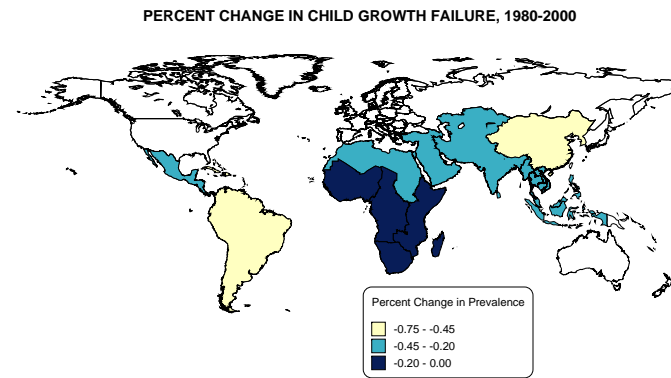
- **Academic Credit**

Research Opportunities do not earn academic credit. However, credit can be earned if 1) the experience results in a tangible product (e.g. original map, research report, manuscript), and 2) the student enrolls in GEOG 391 (Honors). A short written contract should be developed between the faculty advisor and the student that outlines the nature of the work to be performed, an anticipated product and the amount of credit to be earned. The faculty advisor and student should sign this contract. The extent to which

the contract is fulfilled will serve as the basis for assigning a grade for GEOG 391.

- **Examples of Successful Student Research**

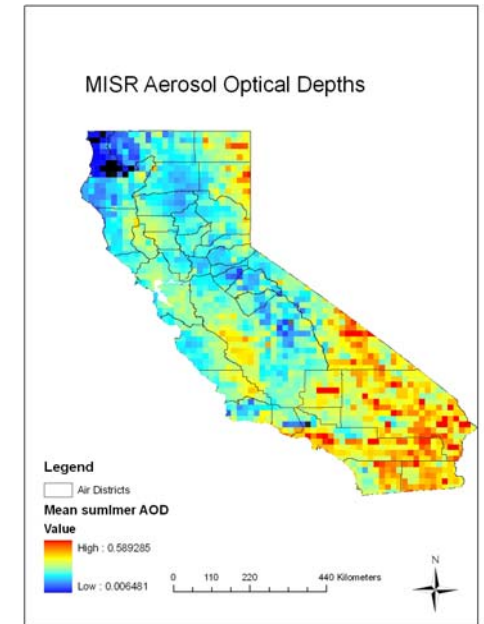
A human geography student worked with Professor Tom Bassett to investigate and map hunger throughout the world. Their research then contributed to publication of the Atlas of Hunger.



Source: UN Standing Committee on Nutrition 2004

An environmental geographer in the GIScience program worked with Professor Tom Frank to study the spatial and temporal variability of aerosols in the atmosphere over California using NASA satellite imagery. Her research contributed to a manuscript that has been submitted for publication in a scientific journal. The manuscript was also used to

fulfill her capstone project for the Environmental Fellows minor.



A physical geography student worked with Professor Bruce Rhoads on the analysis of stream flow characteristics of streams in Illinois and their influence on flood regimes.

For further information contact an undergraduate advisor or ask for assistance in the geography department office, 220 Davenport Hall, or visit our website at www.geog.uiuc.edu