What do you gain from Colgate Geography?

Voices of Colgate Geography Alumni

Spatial thinking and problem solving skills

“My geography training provided me with a highly diverse tool kit that has allowed me to engage professionally as a critical thinker that is spatially oriented, socially aware and environmentally sensitive (or at least so I like to think!). Being a Colgate geographer also strongly played in to my opportunity to begin work at National Geographic.”

“The Colgate Geography department emphasizes critical, analytical thinking founded on thorough research. It meshes skills development (i.e., GIS training) with theory and values, not just the end result but the process.”

“There is a certain mindset that a geographer has when visualizing problems and their solutions. I think this was innate in me to begin with, but geography encouraged and brought it out.”

“Learning GIS and therefore learning how to properly and quickly review and discern valuable information from maps has been extremely helpful with every new site I work on as an environmental lawyer.”

“To put it succinctly, Geography has given me the skills and the “mental framework” to understand and analyze the complexity of the real world, a transition from academia to practice that for a student can be incredibly daunting when not properly prepared (I am definitely properly prepared!).”

Career opportunities

“This training has definitely helped me in the business world to understand the different dynamics, relationships, issues that occur with globalization.”

“It’s made me an attractive candidate for different kinds of jobs—environmental consulting, geo-targeting/marketing, research, etc.”

“Knowledge of GIS [Geographic Information Systems] has been incredibly beneficial as a resumé booster.”

“I use GIS on a daily basis in my work role. Colgate’s GIS course exposed me to ArcGIS and ERDAS, which enabled me to obtain my first GIS internship after graduation.”

“Truthfully, my very broad background and ability to think critically about situations has been my biggest asset. I honed my critical thinking skills in my geography courses. This has allowed me to land a job and successfully fulfill the duties in my job.”