Exploring the field of geography at UW–Madison is easy. Interested students are strongly encouraged to take introductory courses in the field. The Department of Geography offers four intro courses, each of which surveys one of the four major subareas that comprise the discipline: (1) human geography; (2) people–environment geography; (3) physical geography; (4) and cartography and geographic information science. The four intro classes are:

- GEOG 101 Introduction to Human Geography;
- GEOG/ENVR ST 120 Introduction to the Earth System;
- GEOG/ENVR ST 139 Global Environmental Issues; and

Students who intend to declare their major in geography must schedule an appointment with the geography undergraduate advisor.