



SCIENCE HALL



Map by Natalie Correa. Data: UW Madison & OpenStreetMap

History of the Geography Department

Early
1900s

Geography courses taught within geology and other departments

1928

Ellsworth Huntington officially founds the Geography Department

1939

Richard Hartshorne publishes *The Nature of Geography*, shaping modern geographic thought

1940s

Department grows in human and physical geography research

1947

Arthur Robinson develops the *Robinson Projection*, revolutionizing world map design

1950s
to 1960s

UW-Madison becomes a leader in cartography

1960s
to 1970s

The *Cartographic Lab* is established, pioneering digital mapping techniques

1990s

Expansion into GIScience, remote sensing, and environmental geography

2000s

Growth in climate change research, urban geography, and critical cartography

2020s

The Geography Department continues to rank among the top geography programs in the U.S

