

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE  
FORM C  
Form Number: C1296**

**Fields marked with \* are required**

**Name of Initiator:** Kristina Maria Doyle Lane      **Email:\*** [mdlane@unm.edu](mailto:mdlane@unm.edu)      **Date:\*** 10-14-13

**Phone Number:\*** 505 277-4075

Initiator's Title\* Associate Professor:  
Geography

Associated Forms exist?\* Yes

Faculty Contact\* Maria Lane

Administrative Contact\* Mary Thomas

Department\* Geography & Environmental Studies

Admin Email\* maryt@unm.edu

**Branch**

Admin Phone\* 277-5041

**Proposed effective term:**

Semester Fall      Year 2014

**Course Information**

Select Appropriate Program Graduate Degree Program

Name of New or Existing Program \* MS Geography (Plan II option in both concentrations)

Select Category Major      Degree Type MS

Select Action Revision

**Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.**

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[catalog-revision.pdf](#)

**Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.**

Reason(s) for Request \* (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

See attached file  
[justification.pdf](#)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.\*

[justification.pdf](#)

**REVISED CATALOG COPY**

**Note: Changes shown in red.**

**See also current catalog copy attached at end of this document.**

**Master of Science in Geography**

**Program Application Deadlines:**

For Fall:	February 1, with consideration of financial aid
	April 15, without consideration of financial aid
For Spring:	November 15

**Concentrations:**

Environmental Studies (human/environmental interaction)

Geographic Information Science (GIS, GPS and remote sensing)

A Master’s degree is offered under both Plan I and Plan II as described in the earlier pages of this catalog. Any student planning to go on for a Ph.D. is strongly urged to take Plan I and write a thesis. A minor may be taken under either plan with the approval of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department’s Graduate Advisory Committee. In place of a minor, approved courses in related fields may be substituted.

Minimum requirements for the Geography M.S. degree are as follows:

	<b>Required of all M.S. Students</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
GEOG 501	History and Methods in Geography	3
GEOG 502	Approaches to Geographic Research	3
<b>Plan I</b>	<b>Concentration in Environmental Studies</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 514	Natural Resources Management Seminar or	
GEOG 515	Cultural and Political Ecology or	
GEOG 516	Seminar: Globalization or	
GEOG 517	Law and Geography	3
	Two additional courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	6
	One course from the GIScience List: *481L, 525, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	3
	Two elective courses	6
	Thesis	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>Plan I</b>	<b>Concentration in Geographic Information Science</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 525	Seminar: Geographic Information Science	3
	Three courses from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	9
	One course from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	3
	One elective course	3
	Thesis	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Plan II</b>	<b>Concentration in Environmental Studies</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 514	Natural Resources Management Seminar or	
GEOG 515	Cultural and Political Ecology or	
GEOG 516	Seminar: Globalization or	
GEOG 517	Law and Geography	3
	Three additional courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	9
	One course from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	3
<b>GEOG 597</b>	<b>Master's Project</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Three</b> elective courses	<b>9</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Plan II</b>	<b>Concentration in Geographic Information Science</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 525	Seminar: Geographic Information Science	3
	Four courses from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	12
	Two courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	6
<b>GEOG 597</b>	<b>Master's Project</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>One</b> Elective course	<b>3</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

Candidates under Plan I will be examined orally on their thesis. Candidates under Plan II will be **examined orally on the advanced research project assigned in GEOG597 by his or her graduate committee from the two areas listed below**. Part or all of the Plan II exam may be applied and require field work. A regional focus in any of the two topics is acceptable.

1. Environmental Studies (human/environmental interaction)
2. Geographic Information Science (GIS, GPS and remote sensing)

A graduate student who elects to pursue a Master's degree in geography should have either an undergraduate degree in geography (or related field) or be prepared to make up deficiencies as determined by the Geography and Environmental Studies Department's Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must select an advisor who will help them design their programs and guide them through their tenure in the department. All programs are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must earn grades of B (3.0 GPA) or better in all courses on their plan of study, including those at the undergraduate level. GRE scores are required for application to the M.S. program.

## CURRENT CATALOG COPY

Compare to document above with changes shown in red.

### Master of Science in Geography

#### Program Application Deadlines:

For Fall:	February 1, with consideration of financial aid
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#### Concentrations:

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Geographic Information Science (GIS, GPS and remote sensing)

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Minimum requirements for the Geography M.S. degree are as follows:

	<b>Required of all M.S. Students</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
GEOG 501	History and Methods in Geography	3
GEOG 502	Approaches to Geographic Research	3
<b>Plan I</b>	<b>Concentration in Environmental Studies</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 514	Natural Resources Management Seminar or	
GEOG 515	Cultural and Political Ecology or	
GEOG 516	Seminar: Globalization or	
GEOG 517	Law and Geography	3
	Two additional courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	6
	One course from the GIScience List: *481L, 525, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	3
	Two elective courses	6
	Thesis	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>Plan I</b>	<b>Concentration in Geographic Information Science</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 525	Seminar: Geographic Information Science	3
	Three courses from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	9
	One course from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	3
	One elective course	3
	Thesis	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Plan II</b>	<b>Concentration in Environmental Studies</b>	
	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 514	Natural Resources Management Seminar or	
GEOG 515	Cultural and Political Ecology or	
GEOG 516	Seminar: Globalization or	
GEOG 517	Law and Geography	3
	Three additional courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	9
	One course from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	3
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	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>
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	(Additional courses)	
GEOG 525	Seminar: Geographic Information Science	3
	Four courses from the GIScience List: *481L, 580L, 581L, 582L, 583L, 584L, 585L, 586L, 587L, 588L	12
	Two courses from the Environmental Studies List: 514, 515, 516, 517, 561, 562, 563, 564, 566, 567	6
	Two Elective courses	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>

Candidates under Plan I will be examined orally on their thesis. Candidates under Plan II will be tested with both oral and written examinations on a topic selected by his or her graduate committee from the two areas listed below. Part or all of the Plan II exam may be applied and require field work. A regional focus in any of the two topics is acceptable.

1. Environmental Studies (human/environmental interaction)
2. Geographic Information Science (GIS, GPS and remote sensing)

A graduate student who elects to pursue a Master's degree in geography should have either an undergraduate degree in geography (or related field) or be prepared to make up deficiencies as determined by the Geography and Environmental Studies Department's Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must select an advisor who will help them design their programs and guide them through their tenure in the department. All programs are subject to approval by the Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must earn grades of B (3.0 GPA) or better in all courses on their plan of study, including those at the undergraduate level. GRE scores are required for application to the M.S. program.

## **M.S. Geography**

### Proposed change to the Plan II requirements

**Summary:** This proposed change would add a new required course for non-thesis students in both concentrations (Environmental Studies and Geographic Information Science) of the M.S. Geography. The total number of credits required will not change, as the additional 3-credit course requirement will be offset by a 3-credit decrease in the number of electives required.

**Reason for request:**

Non-thesis students in Geography & Environmental Studies have traditionally completed the M.S. examination in the form of a short-term intensive research project that is administered outside the structure of course credits. The necessarily short duration of this project is problematically not conducive to the conduct of a substantial research project that demonstrates mastery of desired learning outcomes in Geography & Environmental Studies.

**Role of GEOG597, Master's Project:**

This newly required course (proposed separately in a Form B) will provide students with credit for supervised master's research that is conducted in preparation for the Plan II master's examination. In addition, it will lengthen the time available for non-thesis students to complete their master's research, thus allowing for the completion of substantial projects that are suitable for comprehensive review in an examination.

**Justification:**

The goal of this change is to improve student learning and degree completion among Plan II students in the M.S. Geography concentrations. We intend to make the Plan II research requirement more substantial, but we do not feel that an overall increase in required program credits is justified. Therefore, the requirement for an additional 3-credit course in supervised research will be accommodated within the existing credit structure by reducing the requirements for elective courses.

**Budget and faculty load implications:**

The proposed GEOG 597 Master's Project course is pedagogically similar to supervised thesis credits or to independent-study credits, so it will not have any impact on faculty members' standard course loads. Faculty members are already advising Plan II students and supervising their research before the M.S. examination; the addition of a formal 3-credit course is not expected to have any impact on existing advising loads. For the reasons listed here, we do not expect this curricular change to have any budgetary impact on the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies or on the College of Arts & Sciences.