

BS Geog

Bachelor of Science in Geography

Under Review | Fall 2024

Proposal Information

<div>Status</div> <div>Active</div>	<div>Workflow Status</div> <div>In Progress</div> <div>Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate</div> <div>Waiting for Approval Faculty Senate Approval</div> <div>Rick Holmes</div> <div>Nancy Middlebrook</div> <div>expand ▲</div>
	<div>Changes</div> <div><div>• Program Description</div><div>• Requirements</div><div>• participants</div><div>• Proposed Effective Term and Year</div><div>• Sponsoring faculty/staff member</div></div> <div>Show All ▼</div>

Proposal Information

Proposed	Proposed
Sponsoring faculty/staff member	Sponsoring faculty/staff email
Chris Duvall	duvall@unm.edu
Existing	Existing
Sponsoring faculty/staff member	Sponsoring faculty/staff email
Caitlin Lippitt	caitlippitt@unm.edu
College	Department
College of Arts & Sciences	Geography & Environmental Studies
	Campus
	Main Campus

Effective Term and Year

Proposed

Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2024

Existing

Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2023

Justification

Proposed

Program Justification

Four changes are proposed. First, the proposed change to the degree admissions requirements is to facilitate the process for students to declare the major, by allowing a greater number of lower-division courses satisfy degree admissions requirements.

Second, the changes to the required courses and elective courses serves to reduce the proportion of lower-division courses required in the major, and to add breadth to the elective requirements.

Third, a second-major B.S. degree program is proposed separately. This proposed second major is justified with these points:

- The requirements for the proposed second major cover the same core curriculum as the first major of the B.S. discipline in Geography.
- Academic advisement has observed that many students have been interested in a second major in Geography, but that most students seek a B.S. rather than a B.A. in Geography. Currently, the department offers only a second-major B.A. in Geography.
- Introducing a second major program has the potential to enhance our undergraduate programs by attracting students with interest in geography to upper-division courses that are currently required for the first major and minor programs.
- The proposed second major program will provide students interested in any of the department's minors greater opportunity to enhance their course of study by taking 12-14 additional credit hours in geography to earn the second major.
- The proposed second major program will increase access to our undergraduate major programs. Geography is a highly employable skill area, and greater access to our undergraduate major programs will enable more students to expand their skillsets before graduation.

Please note that I am not certain that I have input the requirements for the first- and second-major degrees correctly within the Quali interface. I have not included the "86 credits" requirement in the second major, based on our second-major B.A. as an example. If this or other elements of degree requirements appear erroneous, please ask for clarification.

Finally, the degree learning objectives have been updated. Those that were included for the degree program were superseded several years ago and have not been used in program learning outcomes assessment for some time.

Existing

Program Justification

This is a catalog update, no changes are being made to curriculum requirements. We are adding descriptive information and making a correction to our Elective Group Names.

Program Category and Level

Program Category

Program

Program Level

Undergraduate

Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name

Bachelor of Science in Geography

Degree Type

Bachelor of Science

Degree/Certificate Level

Undergraduate

Proposed

Is this program also offered online?

No

Existing

Is this program also offered online?

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Associated Forms

Select any associated course forms that exist

Select any associated program forms that exist

BS Geog

Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

Interdepartmental Program

No

Catalog Information

Proposed

Program Description

Geography focuses on physical and human landscapes, spatial analysis, and environmental and social processes.

Geographers address challenging questions that concern human-environment interactions, climate change, globalization, and sustainable development. The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies offers the following degrees:

Bachelor of Arts in Geography, Bachelor of Science in Geography, Minor in Geographic Information Science, Minor in Geography, Minor in Sustainability Studies, Master of Science in Geography, and Doctor of Philosophy in Geography.

The **B.A. and B.S. degrees** prepare majors for careers in environmental studies, GIScience, and geography, or for entrance into the M.S. program. Students pursuing degrees in Geography learn geographic techniques, skills, and concepts.

Graduates of our program can analyze geographic information, interpret spatial data, and communicate information verbally and graphically. The B.A. degree provides students a breadth of knowledge across multiple fields of study within geography, while the B.S. degree offers students a more in-depth focus with a focus in Human Geography, Natural Resources, or Geographic Information Science.

A second major is available through the B.A. and B.S. degree programs.

Departmental Honors

Undergraduate students pursuing either the B.A. or B.S. in Geography have the option of seeking Departmental Honors in Geography by completing advanced independent work that leads to a senior thesis or comparable project, such as a map, database, website, or other substantial research product approved by the student's Thesis/Project Committee (described below). Minimum requirements for graduation with honors in Geography are as follows: (1) completion of all requirements for the B.A. or B.S. in Geography; (2) maintenance of an overall grade point average of at least 3.50; (3) completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours of GEOG 491 Problems; (4) submission of a written senior thesis or comparable project, and (5) a final public presentation and discussion of the work.

Students electing to pursue honors must, at least two semesters before they intend to graduate: (1) declare their intention to enter the Departmental Honors program to the Undergraduate Program Director, and (2) establish a Thesis/Project Committee made up of an advisor and a second committee member who are both members of the faculty of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

Candidates for Honors in Geography are required to take GEOG 491 Problems for 3 credit hours for each semester during their senior year. The objective of these 6 credit hours is for the candidate to develop a substantial independent project of geography research, which leads to completion and submission of a senior thesis or comparable project by the 12th week of the final term of the student's senior year. A public presentation of the work must be made during the final semester. The Thesis/Project Committee shall determine if the quality of the thesis or project is sufficient for Honors designation, and at what level (Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude).

Existing

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A second major is available through the B.A. degree.

Departmental Honors

Undergraduate students pursuing either the B.A. or B.S. in Geography have the option of seeking Departmental Honors in Geography by completing advanced independent work that leads to a senior thesis or comparable project, such as a map, database, website, or other substantial research product approved by the student's Thesis/Project Committee (described below). Minimum requirements for graduation with honors in Geography are as follows: (1) completion of all requirements for the B.A. or B.S. in Geography; (2) maintenance of an overall grade point average of at least 3.50; (3) completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours of GEOG 491 Problems; (4) submission of a written senior thesis or comparable project, and (5) a final public presentation and discussion of the work.

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Proposed

Admissions Requirements

A minimum of 26 credit hours; 23 credit hours must be in courses acceptable toward graduation.

A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 on all work.

- Transfer students must have a 2.00 transfer GPA.
- Continuing UNM students must have a 2.00 institutional GPA.

Demonstrated academic achievement by satisfying the following:

- Completion of General Education Curriculum: Communication. (GEOG 2115 Information Design for Science and Society can fulfill)
- Completion of General Education Curriculum: Mathematics and Statistics.
- Completion of General Education Curriculum: Second Language.

Completion of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies admission coursework with grades of "C" or better in any two GEOG courses in the lower division.

Existing

Admissions Requirements

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- Completion of General Education Curriculum: Mathematics and Statistics.
- Completion of General Education Curriculum: Second Language.

Completion of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies admission coursework with grades of "C" or better:

- GEOG 1160.
- GEOG 1165.

Graduation Requirements

Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

License/Certification associated with program

No

Degree Information

Degree Hours

120

Minimum Major Hours

34

Professional Accrediting Bodies

Degree Requirements

Requirements

- Complete all 1 of the following
 - Complete the following:
 - GEOG1115–Maps and GIScience- (3)
 - GEOG1115L–Maps and GIScience Laboratory- (1)
 - GEOG1150–Introduction to Environmental Studies- (3)
 - GEOG1160–Home Planet: Land, Water, Life- (3)
 - GEOG1160L–Home Planet Laboratory- (1)
 - GEOG1165–People and Place- (3)
 - GEOG1175–World Regional Geography- (3)
 - GEOG381L–Introduction to Geographic Information Systems- (4)
 - GEOG419–Geography Careers- (1)
 - Earn at least 12 credits from the following types of courses:
Electives: Four upper-division courses from any one group. One course may be replaced with GEOG 499, with department approval. Human Geography group: Courses numbered in the 360s, 370s, 460s, or 470s Natural Resources group: Courses numbered in the 340s, 350s, 440s, or 450s Geographic Information Science group: Courses numbered in the 320s, 380s, 420s, or 480s
 - Earn at least 86 credits from the following types of courses:
In addition to the program-specific requirements outlined here, all undergraduate students are required to fulfill UNM's General Education Program requirements and other general undergraduate degree requirements to earn a minimum of 120 credits. In some instances, courses included in an undergraduate degree program's requirement may also fulfill a General Education requirement. Please review the General Education Program in this Catalog for General Education information. Students within the College of Arts and Sciences must also complete 1) a major and a minor; or 2) two majors; or 3) one of the special curricula of the College that requires no minor.

Major

- Complete all of the following
 - Complete the following:
 - GEOG1150 - Introduction to Environmental Studies (3)
 - GEOG1160 - Home Planet: Land, Water, Life (3)
 - GEOG1160L - Home Planet Laboratory (1)
 - GEOG1115 - Maps and GIScience (3)
 - GEOG1115L - Maps and GIScience Laboratory (1)
 - GEOG381L - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4)
 - GEOG419 - Geography Careers (1)
 - Complete at least 1 of the following:
 - GEOG1165 - People and Place (3)
 - GEOG1175 - World Regional Geography (3)
 - Earn at least 12 credits from the following types of courses:
Four upper-division courses from any elective group. One course may be replaced with GEOG 491, GEOG 493, or GEOG 499, with department approval. • Human Geography electives group: Courses numbered in the 360s, 370s, 460s, or 470s • Natural Resources electives group: Courses numbered in the 340s, 350s, 440s, or 450s • Geographic Information Science electives group: Courses numbered in the 320s, 380s, 420s, or 480s
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following types of courses:
One upper-division course from any one elective group not selected above.
 - Earn at least 86 credits from the following types of courses:
In addition to the program-specific requirements outlined here, all undergraduate students are required to fulfill UNM's General Education Program requirements and other general undergraduate degree requirements to earn a minimum of 120 credits. In some instances, courses included in an

undergraduate degree program's requirement may also fulfill a General Education requirement. Please review the General Education Program in this Catalog for General Education information. Students within the College of Arts and Sciences must also complete 1) a major and a minor; or 2) two majors; or 3) one of the special curricula of the College that requires no minor.

Second Major

- Complete all of the following
 - Complete the following:
 - GEOG1150 - Introduction to Environmental Studies (3)
 - GEOG1160 - Home Planet: Land, Water, Life (3)
 - GEOG1160L - Home Planet Laboratory (1)
 - GEOG381L - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4)
 - GEOG419 - Geography Careers (1)
 - GEOG1115 - Maps and GIScience (3)
 - GEOG1115L - Maps and GIScience Laboratory (1)
 - Complete at least 1 of the following:
 - GEOG1165 - People and Place (3)
 - GEOG1175 - World Regional Geography (3)
 - Earn at least 12 credits from the following types of courses:
 Four upper-division courses from any elective group. One course may be replaced with GEOG 491, GEOG 493, or GEOG 499, with department approval. • Human Geography electives group: Courses numbered in the 360s, 370s, 460s, or 470s • Natural Resources electives group: Courses numbered in the 340s, 350s, 440s, or 450s • Geographic Information Science electives group: Courses numbered in the 320s, 380s, 420s, or 480s
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following types of courses:
 One upper-division course from any one elective group not selected above.

Grand Total Credits: 34 - 120

Concentrations

Program Concentrations

Code

Title

Concentration Required

No

Emphases

Emphasis required

Emphasis Hours

No

Emphasis Rules

No Rules

Sample Degree Plan

Sample Degree Plan Upload

Program Learning Outcomes

Proposed

Learning Outcomes

BS program learning outcomes:

- A.1. Students will be able to interpret geographic patterns using core geographic concepts.
- A.2. Students will be able to locate major physical and human geographic features on a world map.
- B.1. Students will be able to identify the geographic contexts relevant to an inquiry.
- B.2. Students will be able to acquire and manipulate data relevant to a geographic inquiry.
- C. Students will be able to analyze human-environment interaction(s) for a specific case and for specified social and/or environmental conditions.
- D. Students will be able to prepare an acceptable, entry-level professional résumé.

Existing

Learning Outcomes

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes for the Bachelor of Science Degree Program

- Program Goal: Spatial Reasoning: Students will develop an ability to see meaning in the arrangement of things in space.
 - Related learning outcome 1. Students will be able to locate major physical and human geographic features on a world map.
 - Related learning outcome 2. Students will be able to interpret geographic patterns using core geographic concepts.
- Program Goal: Research Practice: Students will become geographical problem-solvers capable of using qualitative, quantitative and/or spatial methods of research appropriate to their level of training.
 - Related learning outcome 1. Students will be able to identify the geographic contexts relevant to an inquiry.
 - Related learning outcome 2. Students will be able to acquire and manipulate data relevant to a geographic inquiry.
 - Related learning outcome 3. Students will be able to assess the results of a data-driven geographical inquiry.
- Program Goal: Relational Understanding: Students will develop an ability to see meaningful relationships between people, places, and the environment.
 - Related learning outcome 1. Students will be able to analyze human-environment interaction(s) for a specific case and for specified social and/or environmental conditions.
 - Related learning outcome 2. Students will be able to identify, collect and process digital spatial data using industry-standard tools.
 - Related learning outcome 3. Students will be able to employ appropriate geospatial analysis methods and interpret the results.
- Program Goal: Communication Skills: Students will become clear and effective communicators.
 - Related learning outcome 1. Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in an oral format.
 - Related learning outcome 2. Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in a written format.
 - Related learning outcome 3. Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively with geovisualization methods.
- Program Goal: Professional Development: Students will gain preparedness for professional careers in geography and allied fields.
 - Related learning outcome 1. Students will be able to prepare an acceptable, entry-level professional résumé.