

BA Geog

Bachelor of Arts in Geography

Under Review | Fall 2024

Proposal Information

Status	Workflow Status	
	In Progress	
	Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate	
	Waiting for Approval   Faculty Senate Approval	
Active	Rick Holmes	
	Nancy Middlebrook	
	Changes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requirements</li><li>• participants</li><li>• Proposed Effective Term and Year</li><li>• Sponsoring faculty/staff member</li><li>• Sponsoring faculty/staff email</li></ul>	
Show All		

Proposal Information

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

Effective Term and Year

Proposed  
**Proposed Effective Term and Year**  
Fall 2024

Existing  
**Proposed Effective Term and Year**  
Fall 2023

## Justification

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Proposed  
**Program Justification**

Two 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 proposed change to the requirements for the second-major BA would cause the requirements for the second major to be more similar to the first major. The department's Curriculum Committee determined that the added courses are necessary to meet program learning outcomes (specifically, outcomes B.2, C, and D listed below).

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

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Program Category	Program Level	Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name
Program	Undergraduate	Bachelor of Arts in Geography

**Degree Type**  
Bachelor of Arts

**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

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Select any associated course forms that exist

Select any associated program forms that exist

BA Geog

## Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

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Interdepartmental Program

No

## Catalog Information

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## 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.

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## 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).

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.
- 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**

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.
- 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**

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**License/Certification associated with program**

No

## **Degree Information**

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**Degree Hours**

120

**Minimum Major Hours**

34

**Professional Accrediting Bodies**

**Degree Requirements**

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## Requirements

- Complete 1 of the following

### Major Requirements

- Complete all of the following

- Complete the following:

- GEOG1115 - Maps and GIScience (3)
- GEOG1115L - Maps and GIScience Laboratory (1)
- GEOG1160 - Home Planet: Land, Water, Life (3)
- GEOG1160L - Home Planet Laboratory (1)
- GEOG1165 - People and Place (3)
- GEOG381L - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4)
- GEOG419 - Geography Careers (1)

### Electives (two courses from each group)

- Complete all of the following

- Two courses from each group. One course may be replaced with GEOG 499, with department approval.

#### Human Geography group

- Complete all of the following

- Earn at least 6 credits from the following:

- GEOG1175 - World Regional Geography (3)
- GEOG1970 - World of Beer (3)

- In addition to the courses listed above, students may also fulfill this requirement by completing courses numbered in the 360s, 370s, 460s, or 470s

#### Natural Resources group

- Complete all of the following

- Earn at least 6 credits from the following:

- GEOG1150 - Introduction to Environmental Studies (3)
- GEOG2170 - Energy, Environment and Society (3)

- In addition to the courses listed above, students may also fulfill this requirement by completing courses numbered in the 340s, 350s, 440s, or 450s.

#### Geographic Information Science group

- Complete all of the following

- Earn at least 6 credits from the following:

- GEOG2115 - Information Design in Science and Society (3)

- In addition to the course listed above, students may also fulfill this requirement by completing 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.

### Second Major Requirements

- Complete all of the following

- Complete the following:

- GEOG1115 - Maps and GIScience (3)
- GEOG381L - Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (4)
- GEOG1160 - Home Planet: Land, Water, Life (3)

- **GEOG1115L - Maps and GIScience Laboratory (1)**
- **GEOG1160L - Home Planet Laboratory (1)**
- **GEOG419 - Geography Careers (1)**
- Complete at least 1 of the following:
  - GEOG1165 - People and Place (3)
  - GEOG1175 - World Regional Geography (3)

#### **Electives**

- Earn at least 15 credits from the following types of courses:  
 Five upper-division courses, with at least one from each of the three groups. 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

**Grand Total Credits: 31 - 120**

## **Concentrations**

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### **Program Concentrations**

**Code**

**Title**

### **Concentration Required**

No

## **Emphases**

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### **Emphasis required**

No

### **Emphasis Hours**

### **Emphasis Rules**

No Rules

## **Sample Degree Plan**

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### **Sample Degree Plan Upload**



# Program Learning Outcomes

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Proposed

## **Learning Outcomes**

B.A. in Geography 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**

### **Broad Program Learning Goals**

#### **Spatial Reasoning:**

- Students will develop an ability to see meaning in the arrangement of things in space.
- Students will be able to locate major physical and human geographic features on a world map.
- Students will be able to interpret geographic patterns using core geographic concepts.

#### **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.
- Students will be able to identify the geographic contexts relevant to an inquiry.
- Students will be able to acquire and manipulate data relevant to a geographic inquiry.
- Students will be able to assess the results of a data-driven geographical inquiry.

#### **Relational Understanding:**

- Students will develop an ability to see meaningful relationships between people, places, and the environment.
- Students will be able to analyze human-environment interaction(s) for a specific case and for specified social and/or environmental conditions.
- Students will be able to identify, collect and process digital spatial data using industry-standard tools.
- Students will be able to employ appropriate geospatial analysis methods and interpret the results.

#### **Communication Skills:**

- Students will become clear and effective communicators.
- Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in an oral format.
- Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in a written format.
- Students will be able to communicate clearly and effectively with geovisualization methods.