PhD Geog
Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

Under Review | Fall 2024

Proposal Information

Status
Active

Workflow Status
In Progress

Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate expand ▲
Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Rick Holmes
Nancy Middlebrook

Changes

- Requirements
- Proposed Effective Term and Year
- Learning Outcomes
- Licensure Information
- Program Justification

Show All ▼

Proposal Information

Proposed
Sponsoring faculty/staff member
Chris Duvall

Proposed
Sponsoring faculty/staff email
duvall@unm.edu

Existing
Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Existing
Sponsoring faculty/staff email

College
College of Arts & Sciences

Department
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 2006

Justification

Proposed
Program Justification
The department's Curriculum Committee has determined that a required course, GEOG 603, is not necessary to meet program learning goals. The course will be allowed as an elective when offered.

Existing
Program Justification

Proposed
Graduate program revision
No

Existing
Graduate program revision
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Program Category and Level

Program Category
Program

Program Level
Graduate

Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name
Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

Degree Type
Doctor of Philosophy

Degree/Certificate Level
Doctoral

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

Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

Interdepartmental Program

No

Catalog Information

Program Description

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at UNM offers a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography through the New Mexico Doctoral Program in Geography, which is administered and delivered collaboratively by Geography faculty at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University (NMSU). This innovative program focuses on integrative human-environment dynamics and is designed to recruit and train the next generation of resource managers, policy thinkers, geospatial innovators, professional scientists, and academic leaders who are needed to solve complex contemporary problems in dynamic environments. The program can be pursued with either university as the home institution and does not require changing residency during the program.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a master's degree in geography or a related field, with demonstrated professional research capacity as a fundamental expectation. GPA and GRE scores must be submitted but will not individually determine whether an applicant will be admitted. International students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in English through the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). All candidates must submit three letters of reference from academic referees and/or supervisors at workplaces in fields related to the applicant's planned field of study. A letter of intent that explains the applicant's interests and identifies a desired advisor at the home institution as well as a primary sponsor at the partner institution is also required. Application is made directly to the desired home institution.

A joint committee of UNM and NMSU faculty reviews and approves admission to the program. The most competitive applicants to the program will show evidence of a completed or in-progress thesis in geography or a related discipline.

Graduation Requirements
The student must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0 in all coursework.

Comprehensive Qualifying Examination: The comprehensive qualifying examination is taken after completion of coursework. The primary purpose of this written exam is to demonstrate broad competency in the three disciplinary subfields.

Oral Research Examination: The oral research examination is completed after the comprehensive qualifying exam, and requires the student to defend a research proposal, demonstrate research expertise, and address any concerns identified during the evaluation of the comprehensive qualifying exam. Upon successful completion, the student advances to Ph.D. candidacy.

Dissertation: 18 credit hours of dissertation are required. The dissertation must comprise a unified body of original research, as guided by the student's doctoral committee and faculty advisor. After the written dissertation is submitted to the student's doctoral committee, it must be orally defended in a public presentation that constitutes the final examination for completion of the degree.

Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

Proposed
License/Certification associated with program
No

Existing
License/Certification associated with program
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Degree Information

Degree Hours
66

Minimum Major Hours
48

Professional Accrediting Bodies

Degree Requirements

Requirements

- Complete all of the following
  - Complete the following:
    - GEOG602 - Integrative Research Design (3)
    - ~~GEOG603 - Professional Geographic Practice~~ ~~(3)~~
    - GEOG601 - Introduction to Geographic Theory and Application (3)
  - Earn at least 39 credits from the following types of courses:
    Additional coursework as determined by the student's doctoral committee, which provides the student with sufficient opportunity to develop and demonstrate competency in three disciplinary subfields: human geography, physical geography, and geographic information science and technology (GIS&T). The doctoral committee will evaluate existing competencies in a first-semester diagnostic interview and will then provide individualized guidelines for the student's program of study that leads to successful demonstration of these competencies. Up to 15 credit hours of coursework may be taken at NMSU.
  - Earn at least 18 credits from the following:
    - GEOG699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)

Grand Total Credits: 63

Concentrations

Program Concentrations

Code	Title

Concentration Required
No

Emphases

Emphasis required
No

Emphasis Hours

Emphasis Rules

No Rules

Program Learning Outcomes

Proposed

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and interpret spatiotemporal patterns and processes of human activity and organization with respect to their political, economic, cultural, social, and/or historical dimensions (Human Geography).
2. Analyze and interpret spatiotemporal patterns and processes of climate, biota, water, soil, and/or landforms (Physical Geography).
3. Analyze and interpret the social and biophysical processes that produce human-environment interactions, and make reasonable predictions about the impacts of changes in socio-ecological system components across space and through time (Socio-Ecological Systems).
4. Identify and describe geographic epistemologies, ontologies, and methodologies, and evaluate their suitability for answering different research questions (Geographic Theory and Methods).
5. Read, analyze, and interpret topographic and thematic maps (Map Use).
6. Create functional and aesthetically pleasing maps (Cartography).
7. Integrate spatial concepts, tools of representation, and reasoning processes to solve spatial problems (Spatial Thinking).

Existing

Learning Outcomes