

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Undergraduate Program Information

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies emphasizes the interaction of humans with the environment, and the program prepares students for professional positions in the public and private sectors, as well as for graduate work. The Department offers two concentrations for the major:

- The Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T) Concentration emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge and skills in geographic information systems and remote sensing tools and concepts;
- The Human-Environment Relationships (HER) Concentration focuses on the analysis and interpretation of the coupled and complex interactions between people and the environment.

As detailed above, the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies also offers minors in Geography and GIS&T. The requirements for teaching fields in earth sciences are listed under the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education.

Note: A grade of "C-" or better is required for all courses taken for the major. Students may not take any of these courses S/U.

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies offers graduate study leading to the Master of Applied Geography degree and to a Doctor of Philosophy in Geography Degree. Our programs focus on the use of geographic perspectives and tools to examine an array of applied research questions related to land-use change, natural resources, biogeography, desertification, landscape conservation, and urban and transportation planning. A minor in Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T) is also available for all graduate students, regardless of major; details are provided above. Admission to the program is in accordance with the general regulations of the Graduate School. Any applicant who does not have an adequate undergraduate background in geography will be required to make up the deficiencies. Doctoral applicants should have a master's degree in Geography or a closely related field. Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation and a formal statement of intent to the Department as part of the application process. Please contact Dr. Michaela Buenemann, Geography and Environmental Studies Graduate Director (elabuen@nmsu.edu) if you have any questions about the program.

The Geography and Environmental Studies Department is also a participant in the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) supported by the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE). The WRGP is a tuition-reciprocity arrangement that enables students that are legal residents in WICHE states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) to attend NMSU and pay the resident tuition rate, instead of the nonresident rate that an out-of-state student would normally pay.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies has a contract research laboratory (Spatial Applications Research Center-SpARC) and a state-of-the-art computer teaching laboratory, both of which support the full suite of ESRI and ENVI geospatial analytical software.

In addition, a hand-held spectroradiometer and 2 UAV's provide precise data collection at varying electromagnetic and spatial resolutions. The SpARC laboratory employs graduate students who work with local and state governments and research agencies, as well as with businesses on applied geography projects. Our teaching laboratory includes 18 workstations to support graduate students engaged in course work and research projects. The Department has good working relationships with the Water Resources Research Institute, the Jornada Experimental Range, the Physical Sciences Laboratory, and other units on campus. The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies has its own field equipment and field vehicle, which graduate students can use to support their thesis research. The potential for financial support exists for graduate students in Geography and Environmental Studies through teaching assistantships and research assistantships. Inquiries regarding the program and assistantships should be directed to Dr. Michaela Buenemann, Geography and Environmental Studies Graduate Director (elabuen@nmsu.edu). Financial aid questions should be addressed to the Office of Financial Aid at NMSU.