

Geography Undergraduate Majors Manual
Academic Year 2018-2019



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Message from the Chair

Dear Geography Major,

Welcome to the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. You have made an excellent decision to major in geography! Our department is considered one of the best departments of geography in one of the most highly ranked public universities in the nation. The department represents a diversity of specializations in the physical, technical, and social dimensions of the field. You will have the opportunity to learn from some of the top scholars in a wide range of subfields of geography.

The Geography Faculty takes an interest in each of you as individuals. As you progress through the major, you will enroll in a number of smaller upper-level courses. These courses provide you with the opportunity to get to know individual faculty members. I encourage you to take the time to speak with them after class, visit their office hours to discuss common interests, or arrange to meet for coffee on campus. I personally value many lasting relationships that I have made with students and enjoy keeping in touch with them after they have left UNC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email if I can be of assistance to you. I am interested in hearing about what we are doing well and also what we might be able to do better. I also encourage you to take advantage of the resources offered by the staff in Academic Advising, who you should consult regularly concerning degree requirements in the major, as well as our department advisor (Dr. Aaron Moody). In addition, any of our Geography faculty would be delighted to discuss your specific interests in the field of geography and how you might explore them now and in the future.

I also encourage you to investigate the many special opportunities that are available here in the Department of Geography, including our seminar series, the Carolina Geography Club, travel awards, research, and other department activities.

We are delighted that you have joined our department. This manual will introduce you to some of the opportunities and resources that are available to you. I wish you the very best for your remaining years here in Chapel Hill.



Mike Emch
Professor and Chair, Department of Geography
Professor, Department of Epidemiology
Fellow, Carolina Population Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
205 Carolina Hall
emch@unc.edu

Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

Dear Geography Major,

I am so glad you have decided to join the Geography department as an undergraduate major. This manual has been prepared to help you with some of the questions most frequently asked by Geography majors and to make you aware of the many opportunities to get involved in the academic and social life of the department.

I am here to help you navigate the major. If you have questions or suggestions about the major, or any aspect of this manual, please get in touch! I hold office hours each semester so students can drop by to see me and I am also available by appointment.

I hope that you will have an enjoyable and productive educational experience in the Department of Geography. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.



Sincerely,

Dr. Nina Martin, PhD
Associate Professor
Jordan Family Distinguished Chair in International
Studies
Department of Geography
224 Carolina Hall
ninam@email.unc.edu

Navigating the BA in Geography

All Majors take two foundation classes. One course in each of the two columns:

Geography 110: The Blue Planet:
An Introduction to the Earth's
Environmental System

Geography 111: Weather and
Climate

Development

Geography 120: World Regional
Geography

Geography 121: Geographies of
Globalization

Geography 130: Globalization
and

AND

All Majors Take:

Geography 370: Introduction to Geographic Information

Geography 391: Quantitative Methods in Geography

Geography 392: Research Methods in Geography

Geography 697: Capstone Seminar in Geographic Research

AND

All Majors take 12 additional credits (4 courses) in Geography. Three of these must be at or above the 400-level.

Minor in Geography

Minors must take 5 Geography courses. Two from the following list: 110, 111, 120, 121, 130, 370, 391, 392, 697, and 3 electives.

Pathways

Students are invited to structure their course selections around a sub-area of Geography.

“Pathways” are recommendations intended to help guide selection of courses that enhance and support students’ intellectual and professional development within the field of geography. As an alternative, students may design a pathway based on their own interests. Possible pathways (outlined in more detail in the “Pathways” document on the website) are: *Climatology, Culture, Society, and Space, Diversity and Justice, Environmental Systems, Geographic Information Science and Spatial Analysis, Health and Disease, International Development and Globalization, Political Ecology, Urban Development and Planning*

It is not required that you choose one of these Pathways, and there is at present no designation of them on student diplomas or transcripts. Also, note that it is likely not possible to take all of the courses listed on many of the pathways, but they are presented to provide suitable options.

It is recommended (but not required) that students take our capstone course, Geography 697, in spring semester of their junior year. This course is oriented towards independent student research, and can be a stepping-stone toward a senior honors thesis in the final year of the major. See the section on Honors in Geography below for more information about the honors thesis.

Course Adjustments and Transfer Credit

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is responsible for evaluating and awarding transfer credit for enrolling transfer students. In general, credit is awarded for an academic course with a grade of C or better from an accredited institution if Carolina has a similar, equivalent course.

If you want admissions to re-evaluate your transferred credits, you can petition for that via academic advising.

Study Abroad has its own system for handling course substitutions for courses you may have taken during study abroad travel. You should see your study abroad advisor with such requests and have them contact the DUS in Geography with a request on your behalf.

FACILITIES, CONTACTS, AND ADVISING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AT UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Geography Department Faculty

To learn about our faculty, please see the Faculty Directory on our website: <http://geography.unc.edu/people/faculty/>. Most faculty offices are on the 2nd or 3rd floor of Carolina Hall, and their mailboxes can be found in Carolina Hall, room 205.

Geography Buildings: Classrooms / Teaching & Research Laboratories/Offices

The Department of Geography is housed in the second and third floors of Carolina Hall. Research labs and offices are located in Carolina Hall. Some faculty and graduate students have offices in other locations on campus, including Coates, Whitehead, and in the CPC.

Geography Department Chair

Dr. Mike Emch (emch@unc.edu) is Chair of the Department of Geography. His office is Carolina Hall, room 205.

Geography Undergraduate Advising

Dr. Nina Martin is the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Contact her at: (NinaM@email.unc.edu).

Geography Advising

Undergraduate students who are majoring in Geography have two major sources of advising. The first is departmental advising, with emphasis on the geography curriculum, career advising, and any concerns you might have about the major. The second is College academic advising (the Geography Department is in the College of Arts and Sciences), located in Steele Building, where students should go to declare the major, verify overall graduation requirements, update worksheets, etc. Geography majors will meet with advisors in the Division of Social Sciences, located on the 2nd floor of Steele Building. These advisors provide the official word on curriculum matters. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with an advisor by going to <http://advising.unc.edu/advising/scheduleanappt>.

Advising Worksheets

Worksheets for Geography and other majors can be found on the Academic Advising website: <http://advising.unc.edu/advising/worksheets-home>. Be sure to check this site for the most recent worksheet applicable to your major, as these forms do change.

Connect Carolina

Students are encouraged to access MyUNC (Connect Carolina) for information about grades, eligibility and registration. Consult the Tar Heel Tracker link to double check your academic progress. Caution: Do not rely on Tar Heel Tracker as your sole method of verifying your academic progress. A final analysis of your courses and how they meet the graduation requirements must be completed by a member of the Senior Advising Team located in Steele building prior to graduation. You also have the capability of pulling your own unofficial transcript in Connect Carolina.

Geography Administrative Offices

The Department of Geography Main Administrative Office is located in 205 Carolina Hall. Barbara Taylor (bktaylor@email.unc.edu), the lead department administrator, and Nell Phillips, (nphillip@email.unc.edu) the department administrator in charge of undergraduate affairs, are both located here.

Geography Administrator

Nell Phillips (nphillips@email.unc.edu) handles the administration for undergraduate majors and minors. Her office is located in 205 Carolina Hall and she is an important resource for you as Geography majors. Nell can assist you with drop/add forms, registration, research forms, and enrollment in special courses. When sending inquiries to Nell, please include your PID number as this helps her to access your records in Connect Carolina.

A message from Geography Major Administrator, Nell Phillips – 205 Carolina Hall, nphillip@email.unc.edu

Dear Carolina Geography Majors and Minors,

I am here to serve you and to make your experience at Carolina as stress-free as possible!

Here's what I **can** do for you:

I can answer basic questions regarding our courses – I invite you to check our website first for the most current information regarding our department.

I can register you for a course that shows “Dept Consent” – but I have to have an email from the professor approving this first, as well as any additional required materials such as a form, learning contract, syllabus, etc. .

Here's what I **can't** do for you:

I can't advise you as to what classes to take – you need to see our departmental advisor.

I can't get you in classes other than Geography classes.

I wish you great success at Carolina and beyond! I look forward to meeting you!

Nell Phillips

Geography Major Administrator

Geography Colloquium

The department hosts a guest speaker on most Fridays at 3:35 PM. This event is usually held in Carolina 220, but you should consult the colloquium schedule each semester and stay tuned to the listserv and twitter for announcements about these events. Our speakers are geographers with expertise across the spectrum of the discipline, and come from around the state, region, country, and world. Undergraduate majors are encouraged to attend these events as it helps

connect with the department and gain exposure to the work that geographers do. Arrive at 3:30 for snacks and to get a seat.

GIS Cluster in Davis Library

Many Geography Majors will make use of the GIS hardware, software, data, and expertise housed on the 2nd floor of Davis Library in the Research Hub.

Faculty Affiliations and Other Locations Related to Geography

The Department of Geography is very active in its involvement with other units on campus, so you are likely to find our faculty serving multiple functions at UNC. Several of our faculty have joint appointments, are fellows, or are otherwise affiliated with the Curriculum in Ecology, Global Studies, School of Public Health, Carolina Population Center, Institute for the Environment, the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, Institute for the Study of the Americas, The Asia Center, and others. Dr. Steve Walsh directs the Center for Galapagos Studies at UNC

In addition, we have a vibrant graduate student population in Geography, with approximately 60 PhD and Masters Students in residence. You will likely meet some of them as TAs in your geography courses. The graduate students are happy to assist you with academic concerns and mentorship.

Academic Appeals

Academic appeals regarding dropping courses past the deadline, medical leaves, and academic probation must be issued by a Dean in Academic Advising or Full-time Advisor. For more information see: <http://advising.unc.edu/AcademicAppealsInfoandForms>

RESEARCH, INDEPENDENT STUDY, AND HONORS THESIS COURSES

Internship in Geography: GEOG 493

The purpose of Geography 493 is to allow students to obtain experiential education credit for geographical work beyond the classroom, and to compliment this with a related academic project. This course is open only to Geography majors in the junior and senior years. The internship in Geography can be in a research setting, or for an outside organization such as local conservation organizations, federal, state, or local government departments, news stations, etc. or it could be in an educational setting such as a museum or national or state park or forest where the emphasis would be on how to communicate information about geography to the public or to students or the public. If appropriate, the student can be paid for the work and also get academic credit.

Before the work is to be done, students must identify and secure an internship and a supervisor who will oversee the student during the internship. The student must contact the DUS in Geography to discuss whether the internship is appropriate for Geog 493 credit and must identify and coordinate with a faculty member from the Department of Geography who will serve as the “Instructor of Record.” The paperwork (learning contract) used to formalize the requirements and expectations for credit must be completed. An enrollment form is available from Nell Phillips in the main geography office (205 Carolina, nphillip@email.unc.edu), and students will be enrolled by the department before the start of the semester. The student will need to spend 3-4 hours per week on the project per credit hour. The time spent on the internship should be documented by the supervisor and communicated to the instructor of record. At the end of the project the student will write a 10-page paper describing the work on the project in a format to be determined by the supervisor and the instructor of record. The course grade will be determined by the instructor of record in consultation with the internship supervisor.

Undergraduate Research in Geography: GEOG 295

The purpose of Geography 295 is to provide students with research experience while working on a question of current geographical interest. Research is done under the supervision of a faculty member in the Department of Geography. Students may enroll twice, for a total of 6 credits. Each credit hour represents 3-4 hours of research per week, on average, during the semester. Students enrolled for 3 credit hours should spend 10 hours or more on research per week.

Students are responsible for contacting faculty in the Department of Geography who will agree to supervise the student’s research. The paperwork (learning contract) used to formalize the requirements and expectations for credit is available from Ms. Phillips (nphillip@email.unc.edu). Students will be enrolled by the department by the start of the semester (at the latest). Students must write at least a 10-page paper describing their research and submit this at the end of the semester. The paper might describe the rationale for the research, the methods used, any results obtained, and any conclusions derived, but the exact format of this paper is to be determined through consultation between the student and research supervisor. It is expected that all requirements by student and faculty will be fulfilled in a timely fashion according to an agreed upon schedule that corresponds with the academic calendar. Three hours of Geography 295 can count as a Geography elective. However, Geography 295 credit can be used to satisfy just *one* Geography elective.

Independent Study in Geography: GEOG 296

Geography 296 is an opportunity for geography majors to pursue a substantive piece of independent research and writing on a topic of special interest. This topic is developed by the student in consultation with a Geography faculty member. To be eligible for Geography 296, students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or better. Students are enrolled by the department by the start of the semester (at the latest). An enrollment form is available from Ms. Phillips (nphillip@email.unc.edu). The form requires signatures of the research supervisor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, a description of the planned research project, and associated reading list.

Students must write at least a 10-page paper describing their research, as determined in consultation with the supervisor, and submit this at the end of each semester. The paper should describe the rationale for the research, the methods used, any results obtained, and any conclusions derived. This paper must be reviewed and approved by the research supervisor, who will assign the final grade.

Honors in Geography: GEOG 691H/692H

Participating in the Geography Honors program (GEOG 691H/692H) will allow you to graduate with Honors or Highest Honors in the Geography major, regardless of whether you are part of the UNC honors program. Prospective Honors students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher and a GPA of 3.4 or higher in Geography courses. Honors projects are developed in consultation with a faculty member from Geography and one additional PhD holding committee member from Geography or another department on campus (“reader”). It is the student’s responsibility to identify and coordinate with a faculty member who will mentor them for the honors program.

Preferably, the student will have coordinated with their faculty mentor and committee in the spring semester of their Junior Year, and will have applied for a SURF grant, or other summer funding to support their Honors Thesis work.

Prospective honors students must submit an application form signed by their advisor and approved by the department honors advisor (DUS). The absolute deadline to submit the application is the end of the first week of classes of the Fall semester of the senior year. For students graduating in December, it is possible to shift the timing of the thesis work to Spring/Fall as opposed to Fall/Spring. The application should include the honors thesis registration form (available from Ms. Phillips, nphillip@email.unc.edu) and a syllabus agreed upon by the student and their advisor, which outlines a plan of work. Upon approval, the student will be registered by Ms. Phillips.

Honors students must write an honors thesis to be completed by the university set deadline and approved by their faculty mentor and one additional committee member. Graduate students who are ABD may serve as a third reader on undergraduate honors theses, and serve in an advisory role, but may not vote on Pass/Fail or Honors/Highest Honors decisions.

Honors students will present their work to the department at the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. The final department colloquium in Spring Semester (last two weeks of April) is reserved for the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

<http://honorscarolina.unc.edu/current-students/honors-thesis-and-undergraduate-research/honors-thesis/>

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY AWARDS FOR GEOGRAPHERS

- 1) **McNally Award for Excellence in Geography:** This is a University of North Carolina Chancellor's Award, established to honor the memory of Andrew McNally IV, Geography, Class of 1963. The award, which includes formal recognition, an international atlas, and a monetary prize of \$500, is bestowed each spring, by the Department of Geography, to a graduating Geography Major who has demonstrated excellence in the field of Geography. The recipient of the McNally Award will have demonstrated outstanding achievement from the standpoint of academic performance, as well as leadership in the discipline, including outreach or service in geographically relevant areas of societal or environmental concern. The selection criteria include GPAs, but the awards committee also looks for engagement with the discipline beyond excelling in the classroom, including involvement in geographic research beyond that required for regular classes, presentation of geographic work in public or professional forums, and leadership and involvement both inside and outside of the classroom. Nominations include a nomination by a faculty member and a resume from the nominee. These should be provided to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by February 15. Nominees will be reviewed by the Undergraduate Awards Committee. Recipients of the McNally award are honored at the annual Chancellor's Award Ceremony, the only campus wide student recognition ceremony at Carolina. At the beginning of February a list of all likely graduating seniors is distributed to faculty and nominations are solicited from faculty at that time.

- 2) **Melinda Meade Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research:** This is a department award honoring the memory of Dr. Melinda Meade, professor of Geography at UNC from 1978 to 2013. This award is granted each year to a student conducting an Honors Thesis in Geography. All students receiving highest honors are automatically nominated for this award. The Undergraduate Awards Committee will read the theses and also attend the honors thesis presentations, which will also be considered in selecting the awardee. The award will be presented each spring at the Geography Graduation Celebration and includes a cash award of \$250 and an honorary gift.

- 3) **J Douglas Eyre Award for Outstanding Leadership:** This is a Geography Department award honoring Dr. J. Douglas Eyre, professor of Geography at UNC from 1957 to 2001. This award is granted to a student demonstrating outstanding leadership relevant to the Geography Department and/or the field of Geography or which otherwise includes a significant geographic element. This may include leadership service and public engagement in geographically situated social or environmental causes. Prospective Awardees must be nominated by the first business day in April. Any faculty, graduate student or undergraduate major may nominate someone for this award, and students may self nominate. Nominations must include a letter explaining why the nominee should be considered for the award. Materials can be provided to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Nominations will be evaluated by the Undergraduate Awards Committee. The award will be presented each spring at the Geography Graduation Celebration and includes a cash award of \$250 and an honorary gift. Nominations are requested.

- 4) **John W Florin Award for the Best Research Paper on the United States**, with a preference for studies of the South and North Carolina
- 5) **Peter J Robinson Award for Best Research Paper in Environmental Geography**
- 6) **Stephen S Birdsall Award in Human Geography**
- 7) **McNair Travel America Fund**
- 8) **Burgess-McSwain Award**: This award is held in the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid and administered by the Department of Geography. It honors the memory of Burgess McSwain who was a tutor to the UNC men's basketball team for five decades. The award is open to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors for a "dream" summer travel experience within the United States of the student's own design. Preference is given to students who have had few opportunities for travel.

CAREER INFORMATION

An excellent source of information on geography-related careers can be found on the Association of American Geographers' website: <http://www.aag.org/cs/careers>. Here you will find resources on types of jobs, salary forecasts, profiles of geographers, and professional development tools.

The following excerpt is from “Where Geographers Work”, found at: http://www.aag.org/cs/where_geographers_work

Many geographers pursue rewarding careers in education; business; local, state, or federal government agencies; and nonprofit organizations. These sectors can be described as follows:

- **Education** - The education sector includes K through 12 institutions, colleges and universities that award at least a two-year degree, continuing education and informal education organizations, and higher education institutions. Educators may also work in educational administration and academic research positions.
- **Business** - The business, or private, sector refers to the segment of the economy composed of enterprises owned by individuals or groups. Corporations are accountable to their shareholders and operate at national or international scales. Independent businesses are privately owned by an individual or small group and usually operate at a local or regional scale.
- **Government** - Applicants new to the public sector, which includes federal, state, and local government, may find the broad, integrative perspective offered by academic training in geography to be an asset. Nearly 2 million civilians—1.8 percent of the U.S. workforce—are employed by the federal government, while state and local governments employ 19.8 million workers. Geography's emphasis on addressing real-world problems and issues is excellent preparation for public sector employment, particularly at the local and state levels where much policy innovation, implementation, and bottom-line responsibility reside.
- **Nonprofit** - Roughly nine percent of the U.S. workforce (12 million individuals) is employed by an estimated 1.4 million nonprofit organizations, whose causes and values span the entire political spectrum. Because nonprofits typically strive to create a better world (as defined by their mission statements), they offer great opportunities for job seekers hoping to make a difference.

The US Department of Labor also collects various information on the occupations of geographers-- US Labor Statistics Report “Occupational Outlook Handbook” for Geography:

- <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geographers.htm>

University Career Services

You should also make yourself familiar with University Career Services (<http://careers.unc.edu/>). They can help you to explore career options and find internships/part-time jobs relating to your career of interest. They offer advice about careers and help with such matters as writing a resume and having an interview. They also have a library of books that you might find useful to browse for more details/descriptions of jobs in geography-related fields. Their resource room is open Mon – Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm and contains career-related books, handouts, directories, periodicals, and employer literature.

UNDERGRADUATE ORGANIZATIONS

Gamma Theta Upsilon – The National Geography Honor Society

UNC's chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the National Geography Honor Society, welcomes new members.

The UNC Geography Club

The UNC Geography Club is organized and run by our majors. See the facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/504841379547883/>