

New Mexico Doctoral Program in Geography (NMDPG) Qualifying Examination Form

Form Last Updated: 25 March 2024

This form should be completed before the qualifying exam by the end of the second semester and submitted to the NMDPG Steering Committee via the NMDPG Graduate Program Director at your home institution.

The form consists of four major parts:

1. a list of proposed / tentative committee members from each university;
2. a completed competency plan that lists at least one completed/intended graduate-level course for each of the program's seven areas of competency;
3. a declaration of a minimum of two areas of mastery on which the student's comprehensive exam will focus; and
4. an extended abstract of an intended area of research for the dissertation project.

The student must collaborate with their faculty advisor to complete items 1, 2, and 3, while the extended abstract (item 4) should be the student's independent work. Note that the information on this form is not binding. The form is designed to allow the NMDPG Steering Committee to assess a student's readiness to pursue the intended area of research, and to develop feedback and guidance to the student on coursework or other preparations that may improve the student's capabilities in the intended research focus.

Student Information

Name	
Home Institution:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Date:	

Proposed / Tentative Committee Member Information

Students do not need to finalize their doctoral committees until the end of the sixth semester. In this table, please provide information about the committee members confirmed or proposed to date. At a minimum, this should include the committee chair / advisor. List the committee chair / advisor as the first member; the co-chair, if applicable, as the second member; the dean's representative / outside committee member as the last member; and all regular committee members after the committee chair / co-chair and before the dean's representative. Indicate the role of each committee member (Chair, Co-Chair, Member, Dean's Rep / Outside Member) after the name in the first column. Indicate the status of each committee (Confirmed, Proposed) after the status in the first column. Note "To Be Determined" in the first column for committee members that have yet to be identified. For details regarding committee composition requirements, refer to the NMDPG Handbook.

Name, Role, Status	Email	Institution	Department

Competency Plan

Please list one completed/intended graduate-level course for meeting each of the program's seven areas of competency. Alternative strategies (e.g., TA experience or employment) may be considered on a limited basis.

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).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

2. Analyze and interpret spatiotemporal patterns and processes of climate, biota, water, soil, and/or landforms (Physical Geography).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

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).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

4. Identify and describe geographic epistemologies, ontologies, and methodologies, and evaluate their suitability for answering different research questions (Geographic Theory and Methods).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

5. Read, analyze, and interpret topographic and thematic maps (Map Use).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

6. Create functional and aesthetically pleasing maps (Cartography).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

7. Integrate spatial concepts, tools of representation, and reasoning processes to solve spatial problems (Spatial Thinking).

Institution	Course Title, including Course Prefix and Number	Semester

Alternative strategy:

Declaration of Mastery Areas

Please check the boxes next to the competency areas in which you intend to develop mastery and on which your comprehensive exam will focus. Please check a minimum of two boxes.

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).

Extended Abstract

Type an extended abstract (500-1,000 words) of your intended area of research for the dissertation project into the space below.

NMDPG Steering Committee Feedback

NMDPG Steering Committee comments (to be completed by the Graduate Program Director at the student's home institution after the exam).

NMDPG Steering Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Revisions required
- Disapproved

Note: If a Qualifying Exam has revisions required, the student will revise the Qualifying Exam with their advisor and resubmit it to the Graduate Program Director at their home institution, addressing the specific comments above. If the Qualifying Exam is disapproved, more details will be provided in the comments above.