

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE



## Alumni profile

“Choosing UNK was one of the best decisions I’ve made,” said Jacob McGlade, a 2010 UNK graduate who majored in geography and minored in GIScience.



**JACOB MCGLADE**

McGlade is now director of market research at Resort Lifestyle Communities in Lincoln, Neb., and is responsible for new market strategy, and implementing revenue prediction and demand models to identify under-served neighborhoods across the U.S. McGlade also develops web-based mobile maps and applications that aid in real-estate research and targeted marketing campaigns.

“Over my tenure at UNK, I realized geography is the link between several disciplines, and choosing this major allowed me to pave my own path in the world based on my interests.”

McGlade says he always had a passion for geography. “Initially, I connected with a few faculty members who helped me understand the practical implications of the discipline. The student-to-faculty ratio is so advantageous that I was able to get to know the faculty on a personal level and also engage in several research initiatives. Through the geography program, I realized my interests and potential in the world.”

## GEOGRAPHY Bachelor of Science

Geography is more than studying maps and terrains. The subject is closely connected to environmental science, so majors often take classes about naturally occurring hazards, weather principles, conservation principles and interrelationships between humans, culture and the world. You will gain skills to interpret and explain real-world events that occur between nature and the environment and see connections with people, society and climate. In the lab, you will have access to state of the art computer technology with GIS, remote sensing and cartography software. This major requires a minor or second major.

### Did you know?

#### Physical geographers

concentrate on the earth and topics such as weather, climate, soils, landforms and the natural environment.

#### Human geographers

concentrate on people and their activities, such as culture, economics, political systems and history.

### Career opportunities

- Environmental impact analyst
- Land use planner
- Soil conservationist

### Reasons to study geography at UNK

- Students can establish relationships with faculty members through classes, research and projects.
- Majors are encouraged to work with a faculty member in “hands-on training” doing geography research.
- Learning geography is fun and useful using advanced equipment and instrumentation.

**Geography is a unique way of looking at the world and solving problems. And for some people, the field is a way to earn a living.**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

<p><b>Semester 1 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS ENG 102 Writing and Research                  GS core Oral Communication                  GS core MATH                  GS Portal 188 course (your choice)                  GS Aesthetics course</p>	<p><b>Semester 2 (14 credits)</b></p> <p>GS core Democracy in Perspective                  GS Humanities course                  GS Natural Sciences course with lab                  GEOG 101 Physical Geography I</p>
<p><b>Semester 3 (16 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Social Sciences course                  GS STAT 241 Elementary Statistics                  GEOG 102 Physical Geography II                  GEOG 104 World Regional Geography                  Minor or second major course</p>	<p><b>Semester 4 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Natural Sciences course                  GS Elective                  GEOG 106 Human Geography                  GEOG 206 Geography of U.S./Canada                  Minor or second major course</p>
<p><b>Semester 5 (14 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Humanities course                  GS Elective (2 credits)                  GEOG 300, 310, 315, 316 or 317                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>	<p><b>Semester 6 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Social Sciences course                  GEOG 410, 415, 416 or 443 (3 credits)                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>
<p><b>Semester 7 (16 credits)</b></p> <p>GS Capstone 388 course (your choice)                  GEOG 300-499 course (except 388)                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective                  Unrestricted elective                  Unrestricted elective (1 credit)</p>	<p><b>Semester 8 (15 credits)</b></p> <p>GEOG 300-499 course (except 388)                  GEOG 300-499 course (except 388)                  Minor or second major course                  Minor or second major course                  Unrestricted elective</p>

**Gamma Theta Upsilon**

Gamma Theta Upsilon, an international honor society, has a local chapter, Zeta Sigma, at UNK. Members in the organization welcome those who share an interest in geography. Activities support geography knowledge and awareness, such as Geography Awareness Week.

**Geography Student Fund**

The UNK Geography Department has an endowed scholarship fund to support students majoring in geography. Talk to the department for more information about additional scholarships.

**Undergraduate research opportunities**

You can be mentored one-on-one and build practical problem-solving skills that prove valuable later on the job or in graduate school by participating in research projects through:

- Upper-level geography courses
- Summer Student Research Program
- Undergraduate Research Fellows
- Honors program

**In the UNK GIScience lab, state-of-the-art computer technology with GIS, remote sensing and cartography software is available.**

**For more information, contact:**

H. Jason Combs, professor and chair  
 Copeland Hall, 203  
 University of Nebraska at Kearney  
 (308) 865-8605  
 combshj@unk.edu

**GEOG – 0315**



**Ashley Larsen, from Lexington, Neb. – GIScience major.**

“The opportunity to assist in student research through the geography department has defined my college experience, and I have received excellent support from my professors. Prospective students will be welcomed into a program of study that is engaging and rewarding in many ways.”