

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION OF CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Preparation Date _____ Curriculum Bulletin _____
 Effective Date ~~Fall 2019~~ **2020** Approved by EPC _____

Department **GEOG**
 College **AS - Arts and Sciences**
 Degree **MA - Master of Arts**
 Program Name **Geography** Program Banner Code **GEOG**
 Concentration(s) _____ Concentration(s) Banner Code(s) _____
 Proposal **Revise program**

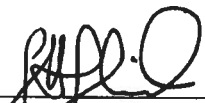

Description of proposal:
This action is to change the name of the Masters in Geography from Master of Arts to Master of Science.

Does proposed revision change program's total credit hours? Yes No
 Current total credit hours: _____ Proposed total credit hours _____

Describe impact on other programs, policies or procedures (e.g., duplication issues; enrollment and staffing considerations; need; audience; prerequisites; teacher education licensure):
No Impact

Units consulted (other departments, programs or campuses affected by this proposal):
NA

REQUIRED ENDORSEMENTS

 Department Chair / School Director	<u>9, 18, 19</u>
_____ Campus Dean (for Regional Campuses proposals)	____/____/____
 College Dean (or designee)	<u>9, 27, 19</u>
_____ Dean of Graduate Studies (for graduate proposals)	____/____/____
_____ Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (or designee)	____/____/____

*GEOG-MA
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Proposal Summary
Revise name to Master of Science in Geography [MA to MS GEOG]

Description of Action, Including Intended Effect

We seek to change the Masters in Geography from a Master of Arts to a Master of Science. We see no effect. See O DHE form.

Impact on Other Programs, Course Offerings, Students, Faculty, Staff (e.g., duplication issues)

No impact

Fiscal, Enrollment, Facilities and Staffing Considerations

No change

Evidence of Need and Sustainability if Establishing

Provisions for Phase-Out if Inactivating

Timetable and Actions Required: *a chronology of actions required to approve the proposal with an anticipated implementation date for each action*

Department approval, September 6, 2019

CCC approval, Fall 2019

EPC approval, Fall 2019

Implementation Fall 2020



**Department of
Higher Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

CHANGE REQUEST: TITLE MODIFICATION

Date of submission: *date to come*

Name of institution: Kent State University

Previously approved title: Geography within the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree

Proposed new title: Geography within the Master of Science (M.S.) degree

Proposed implementation date of the request: Fall 2020

Date that the request received final approval from the appropriate institutional committee:
approval date to come from the Kent State University Board of Trustees

Primary institutional contact for the request:

Name: Cindy Stillings
Title: Dean of Graduate Studies (Interim)
Phone: 330-672-0119
E-mail: cstillin@kent.edu

Educator Preparation Programs:

Leads to licensure: Yes No
Leads to endorsement: Yes No

Explain the rationale for title change.

Kent State faculty in the Department of Geography, College of Arts and Sciences, are requesting this degree change, from an M.A. to an M.S., for four compelling reasons:

First, the department's master's degree in geography is considered a research program. Students are expected to complete a full research thesis, which includes assembling a thesis committee, writing and defending a proposal, conducting extensive fieldwork and crafting a final written document consisting of several chapters. While many M.A. degree programs across the country have a non-research culminating requirement, Kent State's degree program does not. Thus, changing the designation is reasonable.

Second, faculty believe that the Master of Science degree better reflects the program's curriculum (see page 3), which places the research thesis at the center.

Third, faculty have found, anecdotally, that geography students believe that an M.S. degree, over an M.A. degree, improves their prospects for employment or advancement to a Ph.D. degree.

Fourth, several geography programs throughout the country offer the M.S. degree, with some offering both the M.A. and the M.S. degree. Nearby universities that offer only the M.S. degree with a thesis requirement include Pennsylvania State University, Western Michigan University, Michigan State University and Ball State University.

Is the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code changing? If yes, explain why.

No, the request is to revise the degree designation, not the program itself. Current CIP, 45.0701 Geography, continues to be accurate.

Describe how the title change will affect students in the current program.

Students currently declared in the M.A. degree will not be affected by this request because the curriculum is unchanged. Students may request to update their degree to the M.S. but are not required to do so to graduate. In fall 2019 (15th day census), there were nine students enrolled in the M.A. degree in Geography.

Describe any faculty, administrative or support service changes occurring along with the title change.

There is no change to the program's curriculum, therefore, no need to change existing resources or services. The Department of Geography offers B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Geography, B.A. degree in Environmental Studies, Master of Geographic Information Science degree, four undergraduate minors and three graduate certificates.

Provide evidence that the appropriate accreditation agencies been informed of the proposed change (if applicable).

Not applicable. The geography program does not have specialized accreditation, and the Higher Learning Commission does not require prior notification since Kent State is approved to offer the M.S. degree.

The person listed below verifies that this request has received the necessary institutional approvals and that the above information is truthful and accurate.

Cynthia R. Stillings
Dean of Graduate Studies (Interim)
Kent State University

M.A. Degree in Geography

Major Requirements

GEOG 60199	Thesis I ¹	6
GEOG 60800	Seminar in the Development of Geographic Thought	3
GEOG 69701	Research and Presentation of Geographic Data	3
Major Electives, choose from the following: ²		6
GEOG 54070	Spatial Analysis and Location Theory	
GEOG 59070	Geographic Information Science	
GEOG 59076	Spatial Programming	
GEOG 59080	Advanced Geographic Information Science	
GEOG 59230	Remote Sensing	
GEOG 69004	Quantitative Methods in Geography	
Additional Program Requirements ³		12

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30

- 1 Students may elect to write a thesis or two research papers.
- 2 Students who earned their bachelor's degree at Kent State University and have completed the undergraduate equivalents of any techniques courses required in the master's degree can count them toward the techniques courses requirement. Courses taken at the undergraduate level will not count toward the minimum total credit hour requirement for the master's degree; however, the additional techniques courses will not be required.
- 3 Maximum 3 credit hours of research (GEOG 60996 or GEOG 60998) may count towards the M.A. degree requirements.

[M.A. Geography](#) admission and graduation requirements

[GEOG](#) course descriptions