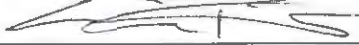




## Executive Memorandum 24-005

January 24, 2024

**From:** Stephen Perez, President 

**Subject:** Approval to Discontinue the Option in Human Geography and Planning and the Option in Physical and Environmental Geography within the BA in Geography

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve the discontinuation of the two options within the BA in Geography: the option in Human Geography and Planning and the option in Physical and Environmental Geography, effective fall 2024.

<b>Policy Title:</b>	EM 24-005 Approval to Discontinue the Options in Human Geography and Planning and Physical and Environmental Geography within the BA in Geography
<b>Contact:</b>	Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
<b>Supersedes:</b>	
<b>Revision:</b>	
<b>Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:</b>	

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

Program Name: Physical and Environmental Geography

Complete only if applicable:

Program named above is:

Option within Bachelor of Arts in Geography  
(Degree program name)

Option is being elevated to a degree (see elevation proposal for rationale).

Minor

Certificate

### Rationale:

This proposal to discontinue the undergraduate Physical and Environmental Option within the Bachelor of Arts in Geography is submitted concurrently as a package with a proposal to discontinue the undergraduate Physical and Environmental Option. This request to discontinue the option is part of an effort to re-envision and update our program and curriculum as it is currently offered.

This request is submitted simultaneous with the Proposal for a New Option in Landscape Studies in Geography. Our proposed new option in Landscape Studies in Geography will replace the two current options (Option in Human Geography and Planning and Option in Physical and Environmental Geography), with a single Option in Landscape Studies that further integrates the two pillars of geography (human and physical) in a single 24-unit core. We have streamlined our courses and focused our curriculum into three application domains: Sustainable Planning, Landscape Analysis and Visualization and Landscape Stewardship.

### Required Signatures

The Department of Geography & Planning  
has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation.

Chm 2. Hankins  
Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

Apr 21, 2023

Date

LaDona Knigge  
Department Chair

Apr 24, 2023

Date

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

The College of **Behavioral and Social Sciences**  
has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation.

*William Nitzky*

William Nitzky (Apr 24, 2023 08:58 PDT)

Chair, College Curriculum Committee

Apr 24, 2023

Date

*Ryan Patten*

College Dean

Apr 24, 2023

Date

### Send signature page with proposal attached to Curriculum Services, zip 128

Note: As stated in EM 15-005: Although this document identifies many of the issues deemed essential for a thorough, open, and complete discussion and debate, those involved in pursuing program discontinuation should recognize that it would be inappropriate to judge all programs by the same standards or specify the range of information necessary to make a considered recommendation in each particular case. Therefore, the Academic Senate may 1) consider issues not specifically listed in this document and 2) recognize that some issues listed in this document may not be pertinent to a specific case. The goal is to help the Academic Senate reach an informed recommendation based on the evidence provided.

### Description and History of the Program:

- Provide a brief description of the program including:
  - When it was approved and/or how long has it been in place at CSU, Chico

The Bachelor of Arts in Geography at California State University, Chico was established in 1964 and has been in place since that time.

- History of the program, including its status as a major, option, minor, credential, or certificate,

In 2000-05, the curriculum was redefined to integrate the human and physical options where students from both options would take more classes together than in the past. The two current options (Human Geography and Planning AND Physical and Environmental Geography) came into being following the name change of the two patterns of Human Geography and Environmental Geography by EM 04-021 on 15 June 2004.

- Relation to other programs, including General Education, and
- Status as a professional or pre-professional program.

Planning has been a key component of the department since the 1970s and the establishment of the geographic information systems lab and hires with expertise in both planning and geospatial technology fields in the 1980s and 90s allowed the curriculum to address environmental questions with a focus on environmental analysis and environmental and policy questions. The development of two certificates in Geospatial Technologies and Land Use and Environmental Policy have benefitted not only our own graduates, but students from disciplines and colleges across campus. Many of our courses are required or electives in other programs across campus.

## **Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)**

Geography has always been well integrated into general education with GEOG 101W as a foundational course in six of the ten [general education pathways before 2021](#) and the [Fall 2021 GE redesign](#), and LD courses in Area D (GEOG 102, 103, 105 and 106) in Diversity Studies Pathway, Food Studies, Great Books and Ideas International Studies and Science, Technology & Studies Pathways. and Area C (GEOG 139); Global Cultures designation GEOG 102 and US Diversity (GEOG 105). Upper division D GE courses included GEOG 352 (USD), 301W (GC), GEOG/LAST 357 (GC), GEOG 303 (GC), GEOG 304 and GEOG 305 across six of the ten pathways. Geography has remained well situated within GE since.

[Changes to general education](#) following the [WASC accreditation review in 2019](#) and subsequent changes to GE modified the designation of Area D1 and D2 into a single Area D designation and reduced requirements from two LD Area D courses to one have negatively impacted the enrollment in general education in geography. Geography tends to be a ‘discovery’ degree whereby students ‘find’ the major through their general education courses. Structural changes in GE that increased enrollment in the past for geography have in recent years resulted in diminished enrollment in geography due to reductions in general education requirements, structural changes, agreements with community colleges all while the number of general education courses offered across the university were increased.

- Describe the relationship of the program to the University’s Strategic Plan, College Strategic Plan, Academic Plan and other statements of mission, goals and values.

The department supports the University’s strategic priorities of resilient and sustainable systems and mission through a curriculum that emphasize understanding, mitigating, and planning for social, economic and environmental sustainability and climate change. The collaboration with the community, county and state through experiential and service learning projects and faculty involvement in civic affairs support the civic and global engagement strategic priority. Our innovative and high quality teaching, research and service with the focus on integrating social and environmental issues that is key to our teaching all our teaching and research.

- Who was it designed to serve (describe the student need)? What are the societal needs? (E.g., cultural, technological, economic, artistic, scientific). Are similar programs available elsewhere in the CSU?

Three CSU campuses in Northern California (excluding the Bay Area campuses) offer BA or BS in Geography (Cal Poly Humboldt, CSU, Sacramento and CSU, Sonoma). UC Berkeley offers a BA in Geography. See the Landscape Geography Option for the specifics of these programs.

**Indicate areas of concern, with reference to the above history, as it pertains to the proposed discontinuation.**

- What is the status of the program now? Why should it be discontinued?

This request to discontinue the program is part of an effort to re-envision and update our program and curriculum as it is currently offered. This request submitted simultaneous with the Proposal for a New Option in Landscape Studies in Geography. Our proposed new option in Landscape

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

Studies in Geography will replace the two current options (Option in Human Geography and Planning and Option in Physical and Environmental Geography), with a single Option in Landscape Studies that further integrates the two pillars of geography (human and physical) in a single 24-unit core. We have streamlined our courses and focused our curriculum into three application domains: Sustainable Planning, Landscape Analysis and Visualization and Landscape Stewardship.

- Was the program suspended or considered for suspension?

No

- What efforts have been made to sustain or improve the program? If there have been no efforts, please explain why efforts have not been made to improve the program (including suspension for purposes of re-evaluation [[EM 13-057](#)]).

We have had ongoing efforts to sustain or improve the program. In 2016, a [minor in Geospatial Literacy](#) was approved by [EM 16-001](#). This minor includes four core geography courses and six electives from nine programs across campus. The minor has been a way to attract students from other disciplines who are interested in learning and/or using GIS and geospatial analysis in their research and frequently students will also complete the [GST Certificate](#).

The department has developed [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Linked In](#) social media accounts to promote geography as a discipline and our major, minors, and certificates to potential students at Chico State, as well as high schools and community colleges in the North State. In spring 2020, we were the client for JOUR 344 Public Relations Strategy course.



[#chicostategeography](#)

The following spring, we contracted with the [Tehama Group Communications](#) to develop logos, social media accounts and a plan for promoting geography. We have hired a PR intern since that time to develop content for social media which will be directed to promote our proposed options. The College of BSS has been supporting this curriculum redesign. During fall 2022, we met weekly with a consultant in the development of the proposed curriculum redesign. Several changes have been made or are currently in curriculum approval process to sustain or improve the program.

Additionally, we have revised our curriculum in several ways to make it leaner and potentially more appealing to students. We have renamed several courses, removed pre-requisites, and eliminated courses to reduce redundancy and some offerings that are typically major specific.

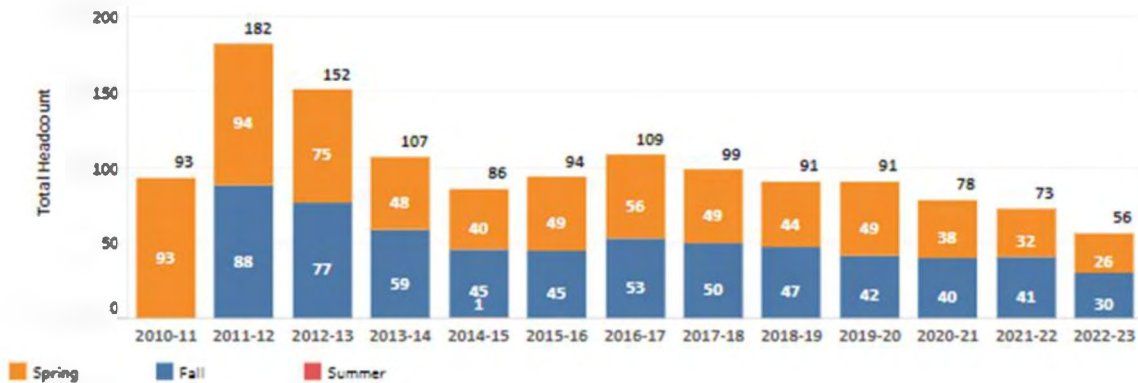
- How many students does the program serve? What are recent trends in enrollment? What is the external demand for the program from an employment perspective?

This proposed package is in response to declines in the number of majors, FTES and enrollment that we have experienced in the past few years. The enrollment in the two options (Human

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

Geography and Planning and Physical and Environmental Geography) peaked in 2011-12 with 94 majors in the fall semester. Enrollment has declined in the last few years with 56 majors in fall 2016-17 to the current number of 30 majors in Spring 2023. Declining enrollment following the Camp Fire in fall 2018 and through the Covid pandemic have been challenging for our small department.

Total Enrollment for All Term(s)



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California State University Chico, Office of Institutional Research (IR):  
<http://www.csuchico.edu/ir/>  
 Data Source: ERS (Enrollment Reporting System)

Majors, Minors & Certificates	SUMMARY COUNT OF STUDENTS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING PROGRAMS															
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	F15	S16	F16	S17	F17	S18	F18	S19	F19	S20	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23
GEOG: Physical & Env (BA)	28	28	30	34	29	34	35	29	23	27	26	27	31	28	29	26
GEOG: Human Geog & Plan (BA)	21	22	26	24	24	23	17	21	22	24	27	30	31	27	22	19
<b>Total majors</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>
Environmental Studies Minor	11	8	6	8	15	18	14	9	19	16	12	12	8	10	2	1
Geography Minor	6	6	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Geospatial Literacy Minor	0	0	1	1	3	4	5	4	8	7	4	2	2	4	4	4
Planning & Development Minor	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Total minors</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
Geospatial Technology Certificate awarded*	7	0	7	0	9	0	7	0	11	0	5	6	10	8	8	6
Land Use & Environ Planning Certificate*	3	2	1	0	4	3	4	3	0	3	12	11	9	2	1	1
<b>Total certificates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total majors, minors &amp; certificates</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>57</b>

\*Table includes the number of certificates awarded as accurate account of number of students is not available. Certificates are issued in the fall of year after completion of requirements.

Note: Enrollment data discrepancies from IR and the CRA data dashboard. Please advise as to preferred source.

- What are the shortcomings of the program that have led to the proposal to discontinue? (What criteria were used to gather data on the program? How was the data

## **Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)**

assessed? Has the program been through a five-year review? If not, why not? If so, what were the results of the last review?)

The largest factor in this proposal to discontinue the proposal is a lack of faculty to provide support to innovative new course offerings. In consideration of the most recent five-year review, the department has lost four faculty to retirement and gained one. Similarly, our graduate program was suspended, and some natural support and recruitment interest concomitantly declined. The small faculty pool is taxed to support remaining courses, particularly where expertise may be lacking. The five year review identified the need for hiring a physical geographer to fill a curriculum void created by attrition.

- Describe current staffing levels, FTES and other information relevant to program performance.

There are currently seven tenure/tenure-track faculty in the department; five full professors, one associate and one assistant; one ASC I, one student assistant and a student public relations intern. We currently have five lecturers. We currently have five lecturers that teach from 3 WTU to 8.6 WTU.

FTES from 2/16/23 [EC Meeting](#)





## **Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)**

The department has been in discussion with the BSS Dean's office regarding enrollments and numbers of majors who have been supportive of curriculum redesign. The proposed options were presented to the Geography and Planning Advisory Board who actively support our students and their career development. These proposed changes were made over the course of nearly weekly facilitated meetings during Fall 2022.

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

Program Name: Human Geography & Planning

Complete only if applicable:

Program named above is:

Option within Bachelor of Arts in Geography  
(Degree program name)

Option is being elevated to a degree (see elevation proposal for rationale).

Minor

Certificate

### Rationale:

This proposal to discontinue the undergraduate Human Geography & Planning Option within the Bachelor of Arts in Geography is submitted concurrently as a package with a proposal to discontinue the undergraduate Physical and Environmental Option. This request to discontinue the option is part of an effort to re-envision and update our program and curriculum as it is currently offered.

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### Required Signatures

The Department of Geography and Planning

has reviewed and approved this program discontinuation.

Ann L. Hankins

Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

LaDona Knigge

Department Chair

Apr 21, 2023

Date

Apr 24, 2023

Date

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William Nitzky (Apr 24, 2023 08:58 PDT)

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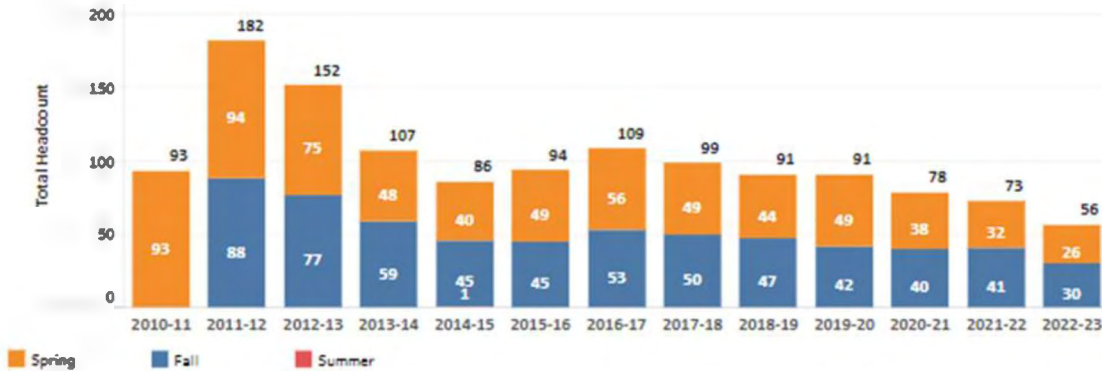
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Total Enrollment for All Term(s)



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California State University Chico, Office of Institutional Research (IR):  
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 Data Source: ERS (Enrollment Reporting System)

Majors, Minors & Certificates	SUMMARY COUNT OF STUDENTS IN GEOGRAPHY & PLANNING PROGRAMS															
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Environmental Studies Minor	11	8	6	8	15	18	14	9	19	16	12	12	8	10	2	1
Geography Minor	6	6	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Geospatial Literacy Minor	0	0	1	1	3	4	5	4	8	7	4	2	2	4	4	4
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Geospatial Technology Certificate awarded*	7	0	7	0	9	0	7	0	11	0	5	6	10	8	8	6
Land Use & Environ Planning Certificate*	3	2	1	0	4	3	4	3	0	3	12	11	9	2	1	1
<b>Total certificates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
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\*Table includes the number of certificates awarded as accurate account of number of students is not available. Certificates are issued in the fall of year after completion of requirements.

Note: There are discrepancies in the enrollment numbers from IR and CRA. Please advise as to preferred source.

- What are the shortcomings of the program that have led to the proposal to discontinue? (What criteria were used to gather data on the program? How was the data assessed? Has the program been through a five-year review? If not, why not? If so, what were the results of the last review?)

## Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)

The largest factor in this proposal to discontinue the proposal is a lack of faculty to provide support to innovative new course offerings. In consideration of the most recent five-year review, the department has lost four faculty to retirement and gained one. Similarly, our graduate program was suspended, and some natural support and recruitment interest concomitantly declined. The small faculty pool is taxed to support remaining courses, particularly where expertise may be lacking. The fire year review identified the need for hiring a physical geographer to fill a curriculum void created by attrition.

- Describe current staffing levels, FTES and other information relevant to program performance.

There are currently seven tenure/tenure-track faculty in the department; five full professors, one associate and one assistant; one ASC I, one student assistant and a student public relations intern. We currently have five lecturers. We currently have five lecturers that teach from 3 WTU to 8.6 WTU.

FTES from 2/16/23 [EC Meeting](#)

FTES 2022-2023													
2022-2023	ANTH	CD	ECON	GEOP	PHHA	MCGS	POLS	PSY	SOCI	SOSC	SWRK	BSS Actual Annualized FTES	BSS Annualized FTES Target
22/23 Annualized ACTUALS	211.75	197.88	179.70	113.13	288.65	278.20	556.87	784.54	346.59	84.31	230.13	3270.75	3247.0
24/25 Annualized TARGETS	247	225	209	137	330	322	644	914	399	95	261	3,790	3,790
% of target	6.53%	5.93%	5.51%	3.63%	8.70%	8.51%	17.00%	24.11%	10.52%	2.52%	6.90%		
Summer 2022											41.02	41.02	
Fall 2022	220.48	200.53	195.80	125.63	270.57	302.15	597.07	824.60	347.05	80.33	225.40	3,389.61	1,694.8
Fall 2022 trades Out						-70.40	-8.80		-17.20		-1.00	-95.40	
Fall 2022 trades In	5.00			2.20		5.60	11.80		13.40			37.80	
Spring 2023	210.65	195.65	172.40	114.47	310.47	341.58	534.28	788.45	359.65	87.82	236.53	3,349.95	1,675.0
Spring 2023 trades Out												0.00	
Spring 2023 trades In												0.00	
22/23 ACTUALS (includes all trades)	436.13	396.18	368.20	242.30	581.04	578.93	1,136.15	1,611.05	702.90	168.15	460.93	6,681.96	3,340.98
22/23 Annualized ACTUALS*	218.07	198.09	184.10	121.15	290.52	289.47	568.08	805.53	351.45	84.08	230.47	3,340.98	102.89%
% of Total AY 24/25 Target, based on assumption that 22/23 Dept FTES = 100% of their AY 22/23 target**	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%	89.8%	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%	88.15%		88.15%

\*Based on actual 22/23 FTES target

\*\*Based on hoped for 24/25 FTES target of 3790

## **Discontinue Undergraduate Program: See [EM 15-005](#)**

- Describe the financial status of the program. Provide evidence of the relative expense or revenue of the program compared to similar programs.
- Provide additional evidence to support the discontinuation proposal. (If possible, reference original EM of approval so readers can go to that evidence.)

### **Describe the consultation process and procedures:**

- Evidence of consultation with faculty, administrators, students, and related stakeholders in the collaborative preparation of the plan, assessment, and timeline. Evidence may include but is not limited to dates, times, minutes, and vote counts from meetings, lists of attendees, correspondence, etc.

The department has been in **discussion with the BSS Dean's office regarding enrollments and numbers of majors** who have been supportive of curriculum redesign. The proposed options were presented to the Geography and Planning Advisory Board who actively support our students and their career development. These proposed changes were made over the course of nearly weekly facilitated meetings during Fall 2022.