

DEPARTMENTAL PLAN FOR ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING
2004-2005 ACADEMIC YEAR

Department: **Geography**

Program: **Graduate Certificate in Geographical Information
Science**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Geographical Information Science Certificate Program is to provide a solid theoretical foundation in GISc and state-of-the-art technical skills, which will prepare students from a range of academic disciplines to meet the contemporary GISc workforce demands of academia, government, and private industry.

Student Learning Goals

Student Learning Goal 1: Students will be well versed in the theory and practice of Geographic Information Science.

Objective 1.1: Students will understand foundational theory and principles of Cartography and Geographic Information Systems.

Objective 1.2: Students will develop a critical eye when designing and interpreting maps.

Objective 1.3: Students will learn how to appropriately model landscape features and to analyze spatial relationships among them.

Student Learning Goal 2: Students will gain the expertise required to conduct applied research projects using geospatial technology tools.

Objective 2.1: Students will learn how to effectively use equipment and software appropriate to their GISc-related research needs.

Objective 2.2: Students will design and complete an independent project.

Student Learning Goal 3: Students will be placed on the path to becoming self-sufficient GISc professionals.

Objective 3.1: Students will obtain the necessary mix of theoretical knowledge and technical skills to be highly competitive in the GISc job market.

Student Learning Goals & Objectives	Educational Experiences	Assessment Methods	Timeline	Responsibilities	Use of Results and Process for Documentation & Decision-Making
<p>Student Learning Goal 1: Students will be well versed in the theory and practice of Geographic Information Science.</p> <p>Objective 1.1 Students will understand foundational theory and principles of Cartography and Geographic Information Systems.</p> <p>Objective 1.2 Students will develop a critical eye when designing and interpreting maps.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L</p> <p>Geog 471/L</p> <p>Geog 474</p> <p>Geog 475</p> <p>Geog 574</p> <p>Geog 575</p>	<p>Course exams</p> <p>Class projects</p> <p>Laboratory exercises</p> <p>Lab exams</p> <p>Student-led classroom discussions</p> <p>Homework problem sets</p>	<p>Data will be collected during the course by the instructor in charge and analyzed at the end of the semester.</p> <p>GISc faculty will meet at the end of the academic year to evaluate program and curriculum and suggest changes.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L: Dr. Hansen</p> <p>Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig</p> <p>Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg</p> <p>Geog 475: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 574: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 575: Dr. Rundquist</p>	<p>The GISc Director will summarize the assessment meeting held at the end of the academic year and write a summary for inclusion in the Annual Report due 15 October. The summary report will note any changes made in the curriculum and classes.</p>

<p>Objective 1.3 Students will learn how to appropriately model landscape features and to analyze spatial relationships among them.</p>					
<p>Student Learning Goal 2: Students will gain the expertise required to conduct applied research projects using geospatial technology tools.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L Geog 471/L Geog 474 Geog 475</p>	<p>Class projects Laboratory exercises Lab assignments Course project and report</p>	<p>Data will be collected during the course and analyzed at the end of the semester.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L: Dr. Hansen Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg</p>	<p>GISc faculty will meet at the end of the academic year to examine course products as part of the annual assessment meeting. These findings will be summarized by the GISc Director who will write a summary for inclusion in the Annual Report due 15 October. The summary report will note any changes made in the laboratory assignments.</p>
<p>Objective 2.1 Students will learn how to effectively use equipment and software appropriate to their GISc-related research needs.</p>	<p>Geog 574 Geog 591</p>	<p>Semester independent project Homework problem sets</p>	<p>GISc faculty will meet at the end of the academic year to evaluate student proficiency in the use of geospatial tools.</p>	<p>Geog 475: Dr. Rundquist Geog 574: Dr. Rundquist Geog 591: All GISc graduate faculty</p>	
<p>Objective 2.2 Students will design and complete an independent project.</p>					

<p>Student Learning Goal 3: Students will be placed on the path to becoming self-sufficient GISc professionals.</p> <p>Objective 3.1 Students will obtain the necessary mix of theoretical knowledge and technical skills to be highly competitive in the GISc job market.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L</p> <p>Geog 471/L</p> <p>Geog 474</p> <p>Geog 475</p> <p>Geog 574</p> <p>Geog 575</p> <p>Geog 591</p>	<p>Laboratory projects</p> <p>Class project and report</p> <p>Semester independent project</p> <p>Job tracking of graduates</p> <p>Tracking of poster and paper presentations of students at professional meetings</p> <p>Homework problem sets</p>	<p>Independent projects will be collected and analyzed at the end of the 12-month cohort.</p> <p>Data will be collected during the course by the instructor in charge and analyzed at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Tracking information will be collected on a regular on-going basis and maintained in a long-term database.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L: Dr. Hansen</p> <p>Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig</p> <p>Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg</p> <p>Geog 475: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 574: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 575: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 591: All GISc graduate faculty</p>	<p>GISc faculty will meet at the end of the academic year to evaluate how well students have combined GISc theory and practice, and to critique independent study projects. Placement of graduate and participation in professional articles will be reviewed and summarized in the Annual Report due 15 October.</p>
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