



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

Department: Geography

Program: Masters of Arts; Masters of Science

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Geography Masters of Arts and Masters of Science graduate degree programs is to provide a solid foundation in the concepts and theories of geography, and to develop skills in the use of geospatial technologies, which will prepare students for careers as professional geographers in academia, government, and private industry.

Student Learning Goals

Student Learning Goal 1: Students will be able to create new knowledge and apply geographic techniques to solve geographic problems.

- Objective 1.1: Develop an ability to apply principles and generalizations already learned to spatial problems and contexts.
- Objective 1.2: Demonstrate the ability to draw scientific inferences from observations.
- Objective 1.3: Be able to synthesize and integrate information and ideas.
- Objective 1.4: Develop the ability to think critically and creatively.
- Objective 1.5: Demonstrate an understanding of how geographic research is conducted.
- Objective 1.6: Students will be able to carry out independent research, analyze the results, write up the findings, and present the results.

Student Learning Goal 2: Students will exhibit a fundamental understanding of the breadth, depth, and integration of geography.

- Objective 2.1: Recognize the importance of spatial organization and correlation of objects and ideas.
- Objective 2.2: Be familiar with the leading geographic journals and, in general, their contents.
- Objective 2.3: Be familiar with the various geography professional associations and their goals.
- Objective 2.4: Graduate students will be able to place research interests within the framework of the history of geography.
- Objective 2.5: Graduate students will recognize the various historical and contemporary paradigms under which geographic research is conducted, as well as the schools of thought associated with their development.

Student Learning Goal 3: Students will become proficient in the use of geospatial techniques to solve geographical problems at multiple spatial scales.

- Objective 3.1: Students will become competent in the use of geospatial tools and techniques.
- Objective 3.2: Students will learn to effectively gather, compile, analyze, and communicate data relevant to specific geographical problems, and to clearly interpret the results in terms of basic principles and concepts of geography.

Student Learning Goal 4: Students will be placed on the path to becoming professional geographers.

- Objective 4.1: Students will be able to work independently and with a team to solve problems.
- Objective 4.2: Students will learn to effectively gather, compile, analyze, and communicate data relevant to specific geographical problems, and to clearly interpret the results in terms of basic principles and concepts of geography.
- Objective 4.3: Students will develop a commitment to accurate work.
- Objective 4.4: Students will develop the ability to organize and use time effectively.
- Objective 4.5: Students will participate in professional society meetings.

Student Learning Goal 5: Students will be able to integrate their learning in geography to the broader world.

- Objective 5.1: Students will develop an informed understanding of the role of geography and science in society.

Objective 5.2: Students will recognize the interaction between local, regional and global issues.

Objective 5.3: Students will cultivate a sense of responsibility for one's own behavior and respect for others.

Objective 5.4: Students will develop tools to become a life long learner.

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 able to create new knowledge and apply geographic techniques to solve geographic problems.</p> <p>Objective 1.1 Develop an ability to apply principles and generalizations already learned to spatial problems and contexts.</p> <p>Objective 1.2 Demonstrate the ability to draw scientific inferences from observations.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L</p> <p>Geog 471/L</p> <p>Geog 474</p> <p>Geog 501</p> <p>Geog 537</p> <p>Geog 541</p> <p>Geog 551</p> <p>Geog 574</p>	<p>Homework Sets</p> <p>Laboratory assignments</p> <p>Student projects</p> <p>Examinations</p> <p>Student project presentations</p> <p>Reading reviews and discussion</p> <p>Project proposal, report, and presentation</p> <p>Term papers</p> <p>Research project and paper</p> <p>Oral presentations</p>	<p>Data will be collected when courses are offered, and analyzed yearly.</p> <p>Employer evaluations will be reviewed at end of each semester.</p> <p>Thesis/Ind. Study proposals will be collected at the end of each semester and evaluated by all</p>	<p>Geog 377/L: Dr. Hansen</p> <p>Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig</p> <p>Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg</p> <p>Geog 501: Dr. Munski</p> <p>Geog 537: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 541: Alternating graduate faculty</p> <p>Geog 551: Dr. Hansen</p> <p>Geog 574: Dr. Rundquist</p>	<p>Data will be analyzed at the annual undergraduate and graduate assessment retreat at the end of the academic year. Decisions on curricular or program change will be made by the faculty based on the data. Summaries of assessment activities and decisions made (if any) will be included in the Annual Departmental Report due 15 October. Department files with all</p>

<p>Objective 1.3 Be able to synthesize and integrate information and ideas.</p> <p>Objective 1.4 Develop the ability to think critically and creatively.</p> <p>Objective 1.5 Demonstrate an understanding of how geographic research is conducted.</p> <p>Objective 1.6 Students will be able to carry out independent research, analyze the results, write up the findings, and present the results.</p> <p>Student Learning Goal 2: Students will exhibit a fundamental understanding of the breadth,</p>	<p>Geog 576</p> <p>Geog 578</p> <p>Geog 591</p> <p>Poster and/or oral paper presentations at scholarly and professional meetings</p> <p>Thesis or Independent Study</p> <p>Geog 334/L</p> <p>Geog 421</p>	<p>Student course evaluations</p> <p>Regular essay questions</p> <p>Written reviews and critiques of articles</p> <p>Student & employer evaluations</p> <p>Thesis/Ind. Study proposals</p> <p>Laboratory assignments</p> <p>Student projects and reports</p>	<p>graduate faculty.</p> <p>Data will be collected when courses are offered, and</p>	<p>Geog 576: Dr. Rundquist</p> <p>Geog 578: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 591: All Graduate Faculty</p> <p>Geog 334/L: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 421: Dr. Todhunter</p>	<p>documentation will be maintained in the Department and available for reference.</p>
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depth, and integration of geography.	Geog 452	Course readings and discussion	analyzed yearly.	Geog 452: Dr. Hansen	
Objective 2.1 Recognize the importance of spatial organization and correlation of objects and ideas.	Geog 453	Reading reviews and discussions		Geog 453: Dr. Munski	
	Geog 455	Regular essay questions		Geog 455: Dr. Romig	
Objective 2.2 Be familiar with the leading geographic journals and, in general, their contents.	Geog 457	Course examinations		Geog 457: Dr. Romig	
Objective 2.3 Be familiar with the various geography professional associations and their goals.	Geog 462	Written and oral presentations		Geog 462: Various	
	Geog 463	Annotated bibliography		Geog 463: Various	
Objective 2.4 Graduate students will be able to place research interests within the framework of the history of geography.	Geog 471/L	Term paper		Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig	
	Geog 474			Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg	
	Geog 501			Geog 501: Dr. Munski	
	Geog 521			Geog 521: Dr. Todhunter	
	Geog 541			Geog 541: Alternating graduate faculty	

<p>Objective 2.5 Graduate students will recognize the various historical and contemporary paradigms under which geographic research is conducted, as well as the schools of thought associated with their development.</p>	<p>Geog 551</p> <p>Geog 560</p> <p>Geog 575</p>			<p>Geog 551: Dr. Hansen</p> <p>Geog 560: Dr. Munski</p> <p>Geog 575: Dr. Rundquist</p>	
<p>Student Learning Goal 3: Students will become proficient in the use of geospatial techniques to solve geographical problems at multiple spatial scales.</p> <p>Objective 3.1 Students will become competent in the use of geospatial tools and techniques.</p>	<p>Geog 377/L</p> <p>Geog 471/L</p> <p>Geog 474</p> <p>Geog 475</p> <p>Geog 537</p> <p>Geog 541</p>	<p>Homework sets</p> <p>Laboratory assignments</p> <p>Course examinations</p> <p>Student projects</p> <p>Course projects</p> <p>Research papers</p> <p>Student & employer evaluations</p>	<p>Data will be collected when courses are offered, and analyzed yearly.</p> <p>Employer evaluations will be reviewed at end of each semester.</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 537: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 541: Alternating graduate faculty</p>	

<p>Objective 3.2 Students will learn to effectively gather, compile, analyze, and communicate data relevant to specific geographical problems, and to clearly interpret the results in terms of basic principles and concepts of geography.</p>	Geog 551			Geog 551: Dr. Hansen	
	Geog 574			Geog 574: Dr. Rundquist	
	Geog 576			Geog 576: Dr. Rundquist	
<p>Student Learning Goal 4: Students will be placed on the path to becoming professional geographers.</p> <p>Objective 4.1 Students will be able to work independently and with a team to solve problems.</p> <p>Objective 4.2 Students will develop leadership and</p>	Geog 471/L	Course project and presentations	<p>Data will be collected when courses are offered, and analyzed yearly.</p> <p>Employer and student self-evaluations will be reviewed at end of each semester.</p>	Geog 471/L: Dr. Romig	
	Geog 474	Group session leaders		Geog 474: Dr. Vandeberg	
	Geog 501	Group projects		Geog 501: Dr. Munski	
	Geog 537	Laboratory assignments		Geog 537: Dr. Todhunter	
	Geog 541	Examinations		Geog 541: Alternating graduate faculty	
	Geog 551	Research paper			
		Class oral presentations		Geog 551: Dr.	

<p>management skills.</p> <p>Objective 4.3 Students will develop a commitment to accurate work.</p> <p>Objective 4.4 Students will develop the ability to organize and use time effectively.</p> <p>Objective 4.5 Students will participate in professional society meetings.</p>	<p>Geog 578</p> <p>Student poster and paper presentations at professional meetings</p>	<p>Presentations by faculty and visiting geography professionals</p> <p>Classroom discussions</p> <p>Term paper</p> <p>Student & employer evaluations</p>		<p>Hansen</p> <p>Geog 578: Dr. Todhunter</p>	
<p>Student Learning Goal 5: Students will be able to integrate their learning in geography to the broader world.</p> <p>Objective 5.1 Students will develop an informed understanding of the role of</p>	<p>Geog 474</p> <p>Geog 521</p> <p>Geog 537</p> <p>Geog 541</p>	<p>Class readings and discussions</p> <p>Individual and group projects</p> <p>Examinations</p> <p>Course readings and discussions</p> <p>Laboratory</p>	<p>Employer and student self-evaluations will be reviewed at end of each semester</p>	<p>Geog 474: Dr. Vandenberg</p> <p>Geog 521: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 537: Dr. Todhunter</p> <p>Geog 541: Alternating graduate</p>	

<p>geography and science in society.</p> <p>Objective 5.2 Students will recognize the interaction between local, regional and global issues.</p> <p>Objective 5.3 Students will cultivate a sense of responsibility for one's own behavior and respect for others.</p> <p>Objective 5.4 Students will develop tools to become a life long learner.</p>	<p>Geog 551</p> <p>Attendance at departmental forums</p>	<p>exercises</p> <p>Research papers</p> <p>Log books of course activities</p> <p>Student & employer evaluations</p>		<p>faculty</p> <p>Geog 551: Dr. Hansen</p>	
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