

Academic Program Assessment Report

Geography, BS

Program (8.2.a)-Geography, B.S.

Mission Statement: The fundamental mission of the Geography Program in the Department of Earth Sciences is to to endow geography majors with the academic excellence and technical skills required for further study at graduate school, or direct entry into public and private sector professional employment. A parallel mission is enhance the general education of non-major students by showing them that geographical knowledge is essential for sound decision making in environmental assessment, resource management, and socio-economic development at personal, local, regional, national, and global levels.

VP/Dean Plan Approval: Approved by A.Wierzbicki on 9-16-2017

Approved by R. Coleman on 9-20-2018

Program Review so no Results and Use of Results entered. Approved by R. Coleman on 10-2-2019

Not Approved -- R. Coleman 10-20-2020

Approved by R. Coleman on 10-19-2021

VP/Dean Report Approval: Approved by A.Wierzbicki on 9-16-2017

Approved by R. Coleman on 9-20-2018

Program Review so no Results and Use of Results entered. Approved by R. Coleman on 10-2-2019

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<i>Intended Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Findings</i>
<p>Fundamental understanding - Students will demonstrate their ability to use the spatial perspective, in written and oral form, to discuss and explain the fundamental processes and patterns of natural and human features on Earth and of human environment interactions.</p>	<p>Capstone Assignment/Project - Assessment of student GEO 480 research report presentations by geography faculty (4 faculty members used scoring sheets to rate each presentation on learning outcomes, rating choices were excellent (5), good (4), average (3), below average (2), poor (1), or not applicable.</p> <p>Target: Average score of at least 4.0 out of 5.0. See related document.</p> <p>Related Documents: GEO480AssessPres08.doc</p>	<p>Faculty used rubrics to judge both posters and papers produced from students enrolled in the Senior Capstone Class. Geography faculty and students assessed the learning outcomes using a 5-point scale ranging from Excellent (5) to Poor (1). Posters were presented orally to the class and the Geography faculty. Students were also asked in an exit survey to judge their own understanding of geographic processes. All senior students self-rated themselves at least a 4.0 (out of 5.0) or higher in demonstrating a fundamental understanding of geographic processes with 88% of students stating they had an Excellent (5.0) understanding. In comparison, the Faculty rated students slightly lower, with 84% of the student posters scoring a 4.0 or higher whereas 100% of student papers were rated at 4.0 or higher (50% scored 4.0; 50% scored 5.0). The criterion was, therefore, met.</p>	<p>Measure Status: Criterion Met</p> <p>Analysis: The Faculty did not separately assess the oral presentations by students. In the coming year, this rubric, which was used pre-COVID, will be refined and used in Spring 2022. The Faculty will be meeting to discuss the possibility at accessing this outcome in other courses. In addition, the Mastery Outcomes in Canvas will continue to adjusted so that full use of it can occur in future assessments.</p>

<i>Intended Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Findings</i>
	GEO480assessrubric10.doc 13GEO480rubric	<p>Twelve students were enrolled in GEO 485, the Senior capstone course. Both this course and the prerequisite course, GEO 435, were taught mainly online because of COVID-19. Students presented their research projects in three forms: orally before their classmates and Geography faculty, as posters, and as written papers. Geography faculty assessed the learning outcomes using a 5-point scale ranging from Excellent (5) to Poor (1). Sixty-six responses for student's posters were recorded whereas 12 responses were recorded for written papers. For Fundamental Understanding, 45% of posters were deemed "Good" compared to 33% of papers, followed by "Excellent" at 23% (42% papers), then "Average" (12%; 25% for papers)), and "Below average" was 2% for posters. In comparison, when students were asked how well the program taught them the "Fundamentals of Geography" (using the same 5-point scale that faculty used), 67% rated the program as "Excellent" whereas 33% rated the program as "Good" from 12 responses.</p>	<p>Measure Status: Criterion Met</p> <p>Analysis: The Geography Program completed a Program Review in the 2020-21 Academic Year. Assessment will be modified to incorporate a multi-level assessment of Fundamental Understanding. In addition, further refinement of how the Program is assessed may be added.</p> <p>Action: We will be assessing Fundamental Understanding within select Upper level Geography courses using a standard rubric. Then, a mastery level assessment of this SLO will be conducted in the Senior Capstone course.</p>