

**Department of Geography**  
**Graduate Level Student Learning Outcomes**

Graduates with an MA degree from the Department of Geography will:

- 1) develop an understanding of the characteristics and nature of geographic work
- 2) have an ability to compare and contrast geographic studies (including geographic subfields) with other academic disciplines
- 3) comprehend the linkages between geography and other academic fields
- 4) comprehend the historical development of geographic thought
- 5) distinguish among the multiple perspectives within geographic subfields and research approaches
- 6) have an in-depth understanding of and a mastery of the literature in at least one particular geographic subfield
- 7) demonstrate an ability to develop a research proposal and carry out independent research
- 8) have an awareness of appropriate research methods
- 9) demonstrate an ability to present and defend research work, in oral, written, and graphic forms
- 10) acquire critical thinking skills
- 11) recognize proper ways to incorporate and attribute the work of others into their own writing
- 12) have an understanding of what is scholarship/scholarly writing
- 13) know the value of peer-reviewed scholarship and the journals that publish geographical research

In addition to the 13 Student Learning Outcomes identified for the Master's level, PhD degree students will:

- 1) possess an in-depth knowledge of multiple areas of scholarship [as indicated by the preliminary exam]
- 2) understand contemporary methods, theories, and models used in a diversity of geographic research perspectives
- 3) understand important themes in rural geography
- 4) demonstrate an ability to identify and execute research that provides a unique contribution to the body of scholarly work
- 5) have an awareness of professional opportunities and activities, such as those offered by professional societies