Student Learning Outcomes Report

Academic Year: 2013-2014
Department/Program: Department of Geography
Degree Program: B.A./B.S. and Minor in Geography
Person Preparing Report: Charles W. Martin
Date Submitted: October 15, 2014

Summary of the 2013-2014 Annual Progress Report on Assessment of Student Learning

The Geography Department’s four student learning outcomes were assessed in the 2013-14 academic year using direct measures. The ability of students to use maps to solve geographic problems was assessed in GEOG 221 and GEOG 495. In GEOG 221, student understanding of physical and human processes was assessed. Based on final course grades in GEOG 495, 96% of the students scored at the minimum acceptable level and 81% scored at the level of proficiency in the ability to use maps to solve geographic problems. Interpretation of geographic patterns was assessed in GEOG 302. Based on final class grades of the students enrolled in GEOG 302, 95% scored at the minimum acceptable level and 66% at the level of proficiency in their ability to correctly interpret and account for geographic patterns displayed on thematic maps. In one section of GEOG 221, 90% of students successfully worked with different map scales and coordinate systems on maps. The assessment of student understanding of physical and human processes was done in GEOG 221. Approximately 67% of the students correctly answered final exam questions dealing with physical processes and the impact of humans on those processes; we do not have data to calculate “minimum acceptable level” and “level of proficiency” for GEOG 221. The ability to address geographic problems using geographic techniques was assessed in GEOG 508. Based on final class grades of the students enrolled in GEOG 508, 97% scored at the minimum acceptable level and 79% scored at the level of proficiency in their ability to use geographic techniques to analyze, solve, and present spatial problems in geography.