

## **Student Learning Outcomes Report**

**Academic Year: 2008-2009**

**Department/Program: Department of Geography**

**Degree Program: B.A./B.S. in Geography**

**Person Preparing Report: Charles W. Martin**

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### **Summary of the 2008-2009 Annual Progress Report on Assessment of Student Learning**

The Geography Department's four student learning outcomes were assessed in the 2008-2009 academic year using direct and indirect measures. Approximately 85% of the students assessed in GEOG 221 and 495 were able to use maps to solve geographic problems. The interpretation of geographic patterns was assessed in GEOG 302 and 321. More than 80% of the students enrolled in GEOG 302 were able to correctly interpret and account for geographic patterns displayed on thematic maps. In GEOG 321 more than 70% of students understood and correctly interpreted physical patterns on the landscape in a course examination. The assessment of student understanding of physical and human processes was done in GEOG 221 and 321. In aggregate, approximately 75% of the students correctly answered final exam questions dealing with physical processes and the impact of humans on those processes. The ability to address geographic problems using geographic techniques was assessed in GEOG 508. On class and laboratory exams, more than three-fourths of the students were adept at using geographic techniques to analyze, solve, and present spatial problems in geography. Our indirect measures of student learning (senior exit interviews) revealed that students value the open door policy of geography faculty, the quality teaching and advising of faculty members, and the good balance of course offerings in the department.

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### **Student Learning Outcomes Assessed During 2008-09**

The Department of Geography identified four Student Learning Outcomes in its Assessment of Student Learning Plan submitted on 29 January 2004. Geography graduates will:

- 1) be able to interpret maps and use them to solve geographic problems;
- 2) be able to comprehend and associate geographic patterns at various spatial scales;
- 3) understand the processes and patterns of the physical world and how human actions impact and interact with natural systems;
- 4) be able to address, solve, and communicate spatial problems using geographic techniques, including geographic information systems (GIS).