Student Learning Outcomes Report

Academic Year: 2009-2010
Department/Program: Department of Geography
Degree Program: B.A./B.S. and Minor in Geography
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Summary of the 2009-2010 Annual Progress Report on Assessment of Student Learning

The Geography Department’s four student learning outcomes were assessed in the 2009-10 academic year using direct and indirect measures. Approximately 81% of the students assessed in GEOG 221 and GEOG 495 were able to use maps to solve geographic problems. Interpretation of geographic patterns was assessed in GEOG 302. About 80% of the students enrolled in GEOG 302 were able to correctly interpret and account for geographic patterns displayed on thematic maps. The assessment of student understanding of physical and human processes was done in GEOG 221. Approximately 53% 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, 80% of the students were able use 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 breadth and variety of classes in the department, and the quality of the department faculty and graduate students.