

Student Learning Outcomes Report

Academic Year: 2010-2011

Department/Program: Department of Geography

Degree Program: B.A./B.S. and Minor in Geography

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Summary of the 2010-2011 Annual Progress Report on Assessment of Student Learning

The Geography Department's four student learning outcomes were assessed in the 2010-11 academic year using direct and indirect measures. Approximately 83% of the students assessed in GEOG 221, 321, and 495 were able to use maps to solve geographic problems. Interpretation of geographic patterns was assessed in GEOG 302. Of the students enrolled in GEOG 302, 76% 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 and 321. Approximately 68% 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 lecture and laboratory exams, 74% 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 hands-on experience in GIS and cartography classes, the open door policy of geography faculty, the frequent communication about job and internship opportunities, and the interaction with the department's graduate students.