

Annual Executive Summary Report



BA Executive Summary 2019-20

Program (CAS) - GEOG - Geography (BA) - 252

Program Mission Statement: The Department of Geography advances geography instruction, research and extension to promote and maintain a growing statewide workforce skilled in geographic research and applications. The Department of Geography will achieve national and international stature in scholarly and creative activities to enhance the visibility and desirability of the geography program at Oklahoma State University, and capitalize on new opportunities and respond to the changing needs of Oklahomans and society to provide Oklahoma schools, universities, industries and businesses, and those in the surrounding region, with the highest caliber professionals in the field of geography.

Departmental instructional goals are: to advance geographic education and cultivate in students an appreciation of the diversity and complexity of cultural and natural landscapes, to help students acquire substantive knowledge in geography, to become skilled in the use and application of geotechniques, and to develop sound critical thinking abilities and strong communication skills. Our program will prepare students to continue their studies at the graduate level, or to pursue careers in business, government, and education.

2019 - 2020

Program Assessment Coordinator: Donald E Colley

Plan Review and Approval

Date Current Plan Was Reviewed and Approved: 09/30/2020

Date of Future Plan Review and Approval: 09/10/2021

Summary of Assessment Findings

Describe overall assessment findings and faculty members' interpretation of the assessment results: Students met or exceeded most goals for the degree, but few students pursue the BA degree so

Dissemination of Findings

Describe the individual(s) or committee responsible for reviewing and interpreting assessment data: Undergraduate Coordinator

Describe the process for sharing and discussing assessment findings with program faculty: Reports are provided to the faculty through a shared Dropbox folder during the Fall Semester of the following year of the report

Program Improvements Based on Assessment

Based on data collected this year, what changes are being considered or planned for the program?: Recent changes removing the GEOG 3333 requirement and replacing it with GEOG 2344 has improved the graduation on time rate but has not resulted in a higher number of majors as we had hoped. Currently, the curriculum committee and the undergraduate committee do not foresee any future changes to the degree and will continue to monitor the number of majors.

Based on this year's findings, what (if any) changes are planned for the assessment process?: The degree will continue to be assessed as is; however, for 20-21 we are going to require students to do a mid-year evaluation of their skills as opposed to waiting until the end of the AY when students are less likely to fill out a program review.

Describe the process for implementing these changes/planned program improvements: With the help of our new Academic Advisor, we will request a review during academic advising this Fall

Program Improvements Made in the Last Year: Curriculum Improvements

"Other" Improvements: N/A

Goals for the Coming Year: Maintain majors, increase graduation rate

Is this Summary Report Complete?: Yes

List all individuals associated with this report preparation: Donald E Colley

Assessment Impact Report: Plans and Findings



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Outcome: Knowledge

Students will be able to think geographically. More specifically, program graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, interpret, and reason analytically about spatial patterns and their possible causes and consequences.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

GEOG 3333 is taught once per year (currently in the fall) and the instructor will assess all GEOG majors enrolled in the course. No student action or active participation is necessary. There were 9 students enrolled in GEOG 3333 in Fall 2016. (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Yearly

Rating of Skills - GEOG 2344 has recently taken the place of GEOG 3333 as a require course to test spatial knowledge. The focus for BA students is now on a general understand of geospatial techniques not isolated to spatial analysis/quantitative statistics. The instructor of this course will evaluate student skills and comprehension. (Active)

* **Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** The benchmark for this course is a 3.5/5.

Timeline for Assessment: This course is taught both semesters every year.

Findings

Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020

10/04/2020

Conclusion: 2 - Meets Minimum Program Expectations (Developing)

The instructor of this course did not return a rating for 2019-2020 as he was new to the university and unfamiliar with out assessment process. More information will be gathered in 2020-2021. The general assessment of the class as a whole was that it is developing to meet our standards.

Number of Students Assessed: 0

Number of Successful Students: 0

How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: They were enrolled in the course.

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What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: No data available at this time.

Outcome: Research

Students will demonstrate the ability to set up and conduct a field-based research project.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

GEOG 4313 is taught once per year (currently in the fall) and the instructor will assess all GEOG majors enrolled in the course. (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Yearly

Findings

Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020

10/04/2020

Conclusion: 2 - Meets Minimum Program Expectations (Developing)

No data reported. This course was once again taught by a Visiting Assistant Professor who did not report data. Based on grades, the students this year met the minimum program expectations.

Number of Students Assessed: 2

Number of Successful Students: 2

How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: They were enrolled in the course.

What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: Students were generally successful at completing the course content.

Outcome: Research Design

Students will understand and apply the principles of (a) geographic information system design and management and (b) effective map design and interpretation.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Most courses are taught once per year, though GEOG 4203 (Introduction to GIS) is currently taught every fall and spring semester, and the instructors will assess all GEOG majors enrolled in the courses.

Evaluation rubrics are distributed to each instructor of a required (core) course near the end of each semester, with the students' names and each course's stated student learning outcomes listed. Instructors rate each student on a 0-4 scale for each outcome (0 for minimal to no mastery of the outcome, 4 for maximal mastery), as described in the department Undergraduate Assessment Plan and as assessed by the instructors of each core course. Average scores for each course and learning outcome are determined each year. Rubric items are assessed independently on the 0-4 scale separately from specific grades earned in the class. Instructors primarily base their evaluations on individual assignments and term projects in the pertinent courses, identifying specific 9 assignments or components that meet the major course learning goals, and they are encouraged to rate students on the individual learning outcomes prior to determining final course grades. (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Each Semester

Findings

Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020

10/04/2020

Conclusion: 3 - Meets Program Expectations (Proficient)

Students were assessed on four categories and performed proficiently (3/4) in all categories doing especially well in tutorials and projects.

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Number of Students Assessed: 2

Number of Successful Students: 2

How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: Enrolled in the course.

What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: Students continue to maintain proficiency in their GIS skills year over year. This is especially good for those in the BA program whose emphasis generally is not on geospatial techniques.

Outcome: Communication

Students will demonstrate effective written and oral presentation skills.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2019 - 2020

Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

The assessment will be based on a representative written assignment and an oral presentation from GEOG 4313 (the acting Geography capstone course). The course will be taught once per year in the fall, as noted in Timeline 2A. The representative written assignment will be given to the Assessment committee for evaluation. The oral presentation will be assessed by the 4313 instructor. The evaluators will be responsible for assessing the projects based on university rubrics (Appendix II) (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Yearly

Findings

Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020

10/04/2020

Conclusion: 2 - Meets Minimum Program Expectations (Developing)

No data reported.

Number of Students Assessed: 2

Number of Successful Students: 2

How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: Enrolled in the course.

What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: No data reported.