

Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods



BS Plan 2019-20

Program (CAS) - GEOG - Geography (BS) - 109

Program Mission Statement: The mission statement, educational objectives, and goals for program should guide the assessment process. The mission statement should align with department, college, and institutional mission statements.

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.

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

Rating of Skills - 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. Specific to learning (quantitative) analytical reasoning and pattern recognition skills, the department will assess the learning outcome with a rubric designed for a required course, GEOG 3333 (Spatial Analysis). Students will be assessed by the faculty member teaching this course with a rubric specific to the course subject to revision. The rubric for this outcome is included in the summary of outcome results section. (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Yearly

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

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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

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

Outcome: Survey

Express positive feedback on their experience as a Geography undergraduate major and their preparedness for post-graduate employment.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Timeline 4A: Exit Surveys will be administered approximately one month before students graduate each term (Fall, Spring, and Summer) and results will be aggregated. There are items that can be rated on a 0-4 scale and averaged, as well as open-ended items that cover a variety of topics of interest to the faculty.

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Timeline 4B: The Survey of Alumni from Undergraduate Programs is administered in the spring of each even-numbered year, and results will thus be incorporated into the annual assessment report every other year as available. (Active)

Timeline for Assessment: Each Semester

Outcome: Communication

Students will demonstrate effective written and oral presentation skills.

Outcome Status: Active

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