

**B.A., B.S. in Geography (45.701) STUDENT LEARNING
OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PLAN**

Students graduating with the Bachelor's degree in Geography will:

- 1. Demonstrate appropriate oral presentation skills for career or advanced study**
- 2. Demonstrate appropriate written communication skills for career or advanced study**
- 3. Demonstrate appropriate analytical skills for career or advanced study**
- 4. Construct and interpret maps and other spatial models using appropriate cartographic design, visualization techniques, and quantitative data manipulation**
- 5. Conceptualize and articulate the underlying principles and practices of Geography**
- 6. Integrate, assess, and/or synthesize information of a geographic nature**
- 7. Participate in learning experiences outside the traditional classroom (e.g., field trips, activities hosted by Geography Club, field camps, outdoor activities in traditional courses)**
- 8. Successfully complete a professional practice experience**

Note: We have combined assessment for both teaching and non-teaching majors unless otherwise noted. The core classes for teaching majors and non-teaching majors differ by only one class. Teaching majors take GEO 307, which is a teaching techniques course, while non-teaching majors take GEO 238, which is a statistics course.

Faculty will submit success rates and other pertinent information to the Geography advisor, who will maintain the master list of Student Learning Outcomes for Geography.

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Goal	Core Competency	Teaching activity	Learning/Assessment Activity	Success Measured by:
1. Demonstrate appropriate oral presentation skills for career or advanced study				
	a. Students will give an oral presentation to a geography class in which they are enrolled.	GEO 205	Oral Presentation	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or better on an oral presentation.
	b. Students will participate in a debate on an environmental issue during a geography class in which they are enrolled.	GEO 205	Debate	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or better.
	c. Students will present research to professionals from other departments/institutions (includes oral and poster presentations).	Participation in meetings (e.g., IGS, AAG, Undergraduate Research Symposium)	Research Presentation	10% of majors enrolled in the geography program will meet this objective.
2. Demonstrate appropriate written communication skills for career or advanced study				
	a. Students will cite sources in text using MLA format.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily demonstrate by end of class.
	b. Students will list sources cited using MLA format.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily demonstrate by end of class.

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	c. Students will respond to text for another student in the class.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily demonstrate by end of class.
	d. Students will complete a final project where they will apply the cartographic process to the production of a series of maps for a topic of their choice. A written report that describes the development of the map series will be a component of the final project.	GEO 300	Written Report	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or better.
	e. Students will create a teacher home page to assist them in the communication process of teaching.	GEO 307	Graded Assignment	100% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	f. Students will complete a field-based final project.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or better.
	g. Students will create a unit lesson plan with at least three lesson plans, each pertaining to a specific state geography standard.	GEO 307	Graded Assignment with Rubric	100% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
3. Demonstrate appropriate analytical skills for career or advanced study				
	a. Students will navigate accurately using GPS.	GEO 204	Field Work	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.

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	b. Students will conduct a research interview.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	c. Students will collect and analyze data from field observation.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	d. Students will take and caption research photos.	GEO 315	Senior Field Problem	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	e. Students will learn to search for and evaluate Internet-based resources for conducting research.	GEO 205	Assignment	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	f. Students will use the scientific method to address a research question.	GEO 100	Laboratory Exercises	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn an average grade of 'C or above on lab assignments.
	g. Students will learn at least three techniques to analyze a geographic problem using Geographic Information Systems.	GEO 303	Laboratory Exercises	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn an average grade of *C or above on lab assignments.
	h. Students will analyze quantitative data of a geographical nature.	GEO 238	Entire Class	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn an average grade of 'C or above in the class.

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<p>4. Construct and interpret maps and other spatial models using appropriate cartographic design, visualization techniques, and quantitative data manipulation</p>				
	<p>a. Students will prepare a map using the seven elements of a good map.</p>	<p>GEO 204</p>	<p>Doing Geography Problem</p>	<p>95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.</p>
	<p>b. Students will interpret aerial imagery.</p>	<p>GEO 204</p>	<p>Laboratory Exercises</p>	<p>95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.</p>
	<p>c. Students will complete several mapping projects and exercises that apply the cartographic process to a specific aspect of map production (e.g., text placement, choropleth map production, dot map production).</p>	<p>GEO 300</p>	<p>Mapping Projects</p>	<p>85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn an average grade of 'C or above on mapping projects.</p>
	<p>d. Students will create a map using the seven elements of map design and using an appropriate classification technique.</p>	<p>GEO 303</p>	<p>Lab Assignment</p>	<p>85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or above on lab assignment.</p>
<p>5. Conceptualize and articulate the underlying principles and practices of Geography</p>				
	<p>a. Students will be able to identify at least two dominant frameworks of environmental and ecological thought.</p>	<p>GEO 205</p>	<p>Exam Question</p>	<p>85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on essay.</p>

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	b. Students will understand Earth-Sun relationships.	GEO 100	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	c. Students will know the composition and function of the atmosphere.	GEO 100	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	d. Students will explain the components of the hydrologic cycle.	GEO 100	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	e. Students will recognize landforms and explain processes that created those landforms.	GEO 100	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	f. Students will be able to characterize Earth's ecosystems and biomes.	GEO 100	Lab Assignment	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a 'C or above on a lab assignment.
	g. Students will explain the difference between raster and vector data models in a GIS.	GEO 303	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	h. Students will create a unit lesson plan with at least three lesson plans each pertaining to a specific state geography standard.	GEO 307	Rubric	100% of geography majors enrolled in the class will pass.

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	i. Students will understand and apply basic themes in human geography such as culture region, diffusion, and cultural ecology.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	j. Students will describe the global distribution and characteristics of population, including factors that influence population change and migration.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	k. Students will understand the major components of folk and popular cultures, and describe the impact of globalization on culture.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	l. Students will describe major patterns of religion around the world and in the United States, and explain how religion may be visible on the cultural landscape.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	m. Students will describe the global distribution of major ethnic groups and linguistic regions.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
	n. Students will understand the formation of political boundaries as well as the nature of boundary conflicts between states.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.

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	o. Students will describe the major types of agriculture and industry distributed around the world.	GEO 140	Exam Question	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a "satisfactory" grade on exam question.
6. Integrate, assess, and/or synthesize information of a geographic nature				
	a. Students will collect, assess, and integrate data for the completion of several mapping projects and exercises.	GEO 300	Mapping Projects	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn an average grade of 'C or higher on mapping projects.
	b. Students will complete a final project where they will collect, assess, and integrate data into the production of a series of maps.	GEO 300	Written Report	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a 'C or above on the final report.
	c. Students will perform a geographic analysis of a contemporary environmental issue.	GEO 205	Debate	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or higher on a debate.
	d. Students will design a GIS project using at least two layers of information and employing at least three different analytical techniques.	GEO 303	Written Report	85% of geography majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'C or above on the final project.
	e. Students will create and use a database (Microsoft Access) for library resources used in classroom instruction.	GEO 307	Graded Assignment	100% of geography education majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.

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<p>7. Participate in learning experiences outside the traditional classroom (e.g., field trips with a class, activities hosted by Geography Club, field camps, outdoor activities in traditional courses)</p>				
	<p>a. Students will participate in field trips (off-campus, duration greater than one hour) associated with a class.</p>	<p>Various</p>		<p>95% of geography majors will participate in at least one field trip during their college careers.</p>
	<p>b. Students will be invited to geography-related activities outside the classroom.</p>			<p>At least two events will be planned and hosted by Geography Club.</p>
	<p>c. Geography students will be offered the opportunity to meet with geographers outside the classroom for informal discussions on a variety of geographic topics.</p>			<p>At least three informal discussions will be offered per year.</p>
	<p>d. Students will complete at least 35 hours of clinical observations.</p>	<p>GEO 307</p>	<p>Clinical Observation</p>	<p>95% of geography majors will satisfactorily complete assignment.</p>
<p>8. Successfully complete a professional practice experience</p>				
	<p>a. Students will prepare a letter-perfect one-page resume.</p>	<p>GEO 315</p>	<p>Written Assignment</p>	<p>95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.</p>
	<p>b. Students will prepare a cover letter to accompany a resume.</p>	<p>GEO 315</p>	<p>Written Assignment</p>	<p>95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.</p>

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	c. Students will successfully sit for a videotaped mock job interview.	GEO 315	Mock Interview	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	d. Students will create a lesson plan for inclusion in the classroom by modifying an existing lesson plan for three different physical, emotional, and/or behavioral student populations.	GEO 307	Written Assignment	95% of geography majors enrolled in the class will satisfactorily complete assignment.
	e. Students will successfully complete an internship (minimum of 4 credit hours).	GEO 398 Professional Practice in Geography	Internship	95% of all geography majors enrolled in the internship will earn a grade of 'B' or above from the on-site supervisor.
	f. Students will successfully complete an internship (minimum of 4 credit hours).	GEO 398 Professional Practice in Geography	Internship	95% of all geography majors enrolled in the internship will earn a grade of *B' or above for the course as assigned by the Internship Coordinator.
	g. Students will complete 12 hours of student teaching.	STT 398.18	Student Teaching	95% of geography education majors enrolled in the class will earn a grade of 'B' or above.