Expected Outcomes: Body of Knowledge

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Geography will graduate with a body of knowledge and skills appropriate to a comprehensive geographical education.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
7. Written Communication
8. Oral Communication
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Exit Examination

Students will take an exit examination during their final year, which will be administered by the Department. The test will be drawn from required courses and will be updated regularly by members of the Faculty.

Findings:

The Department Goal is that 80% of the students will score 70% or higher on the examination and no more than 20% will score less than 50% on any subsection. Of the students who took the exam 80% of the students scored 70% or better and one student scored below 50% on one subsection which does not exceed 20%.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Subject areas with unsatisfactory student outcomes were identified, and the professors involved in these areas examined the questions missed. These were categorized into the types of learning involved; for example whether problem areas involved concepts, recalling specifics, etc. These findings were used to modify the corresponding parts of classroom instruction.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Beyond Alabama
Students will graduate with broad knowledge of the cultural and environmental features of the world beyond Alabama.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
3. Written Communication
4. Oral Communication
5. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
6. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
7. Scientific Literacy
8. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

Assessment methods

Method: Exit Examination

Students will be required to demonstrate broad knowledge of the global community during an exit examination, which will involve questions drawn from current events.

Findings:

It is the goal of the Department that 80% of students will score 70% or better on the current affairs section. The average score was 76%, however 40% of students scored below 70%.

How did you use findings for improvement?

We are now requiring that our students take a Global Geography course to improve knowledge beyond Alabama. We also will update the exam when the students take the exit exam to focus on more recent current national and global affairs.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Employment/Graduate School

A database will be setup in which we track students who complete the Geography Program indicating whether the student found professional employment in a geographical field or pursued graduate school.

Related typical general education outcomes:

Assessment methods

Method: Status Report

Geography majors will be tracked after graduation. These graduates will find professional employment in geography or related areas or will enter a graduate program.

Findings:

We have information that 3 students have found employment, 1 student went on to graduate school in Geography and 1 went on to Seminary.
How did you use findings for improvement?

Discussion has centered on better ways of tracking our alumni including use of social networking Web sites.

Additional comments:

None