Expected Outcomes: Geography Skills and Knowledge

Students completing the M.S. program in Geography, either via thesis or non-thesis option, will acquire the skills and knowledge appropriate to a post-graduate degree from a major educational institution.

Assessment methods

Method: Oral Examination

Degree candidates for the M.S. degree in Geography will be given a comprehensive oral examination at the end of their last semester. The examination includes the following subsections: (1) knowledge and understanding of previous studies; (2) research methodology if thesis option; (3) discussion, including understanding of the significance of their work; (4) verbal expression; (5) written expression; and (6) knowledge of discipline.

Findings:

We have had two students graduate during this assessment period; both under the thesis option. Both undertook an oral examination at the completion of their coursework and/or thesis. Both students passed oral examinations with two committee members from Geography and one outside member on each committee.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Individual thesis supervisors have addressed issues related to discussion and significance in their interactions with graduate students. All faculty have increased the emphasis on oral and written communication.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Communication Skills

Graduates of the M.S. program in Geography will be able to communicate research results in written and oral form in a professional manner.

Assessment methods

Method: Professional Presentations

Students in the M.S. degree program in Geography will be encouraged to deliver a presentation (poster or talk) at a professional meeting. The expectation is that seventy-five (75) percent of the students who complete the M.S. degree program in Geography will have delivered a presentation (poster or talk) at a sectional or national professional meeting.

Findings:

Of the two graduates in AY2011-2012 both students presented one or more presentations at professional meetings.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Faculty have been reminded of these goals.

Additional comments: None

Expected Outcomes: Professional Employment/Ph.D Program

Graduates of the M.S. program in Geography will be well prepared for professional employment and/or for admission into a Ph.D. program in Geography or related discipline.

Assessment methods

Method: Placement of Graduates

The Department will monitor the employment status of M.S. graduates after they leave the University.

Findings:

Of the two graduates who received their M.S. in Geography in AY 2011-2012, both have pursued professional employment and found employment one of which we are certain is utilizing their geographical skills.

How did you use findings for improvement?

N/A

Additional comments:

None