

Spring | 09

Student Outcomes Assessment Plan

Department of Geography
California State University, Fresno

I. PROGRAMMATIC PURPOSES

I.A. MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Geography is committed to provide effective teaching, advising and research opportunities to prepare and motivate students to apply the spatially-based analytical tools of Geography to the study of social and environmental problems that range in scale from local concerns to global issues.

I.B. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: The Department's graduates should understand and analyze spatial relationships.

Objective 1.1: They will understand and interpret the distribution, processes and linkages between culture, economy, urbanization, agriculture, politics and language.

Objective 1.2: They will understand and interpret the lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere and biosphere.

Objective 1.3: They will understand and interpret the interrelationships between landforms, weather, water and ecosystems.

Goal 2: The Department's graduates should understand, analyze, and critique human and environment interactions.

Objective 2.1: They should explain and critically evaluate how human activities modify physical and biotic environments.

Objective 2.2: They should explain and critically evaluate how environments affect humans as related to environmental pollution, environmental change and natural hazards.

Goal 3: The Department's graduates should define and use basic geography tools and techniques.

Objective 3.1: They will be able to read and interpret maps.

Objective 3.2: They will be able to construct maps.

Objective 3.3: They will be able to perform quantitative analysis and interpret the results.

Objective 3.4: They will be able to perform basic or advanced geospatial analyses using Geographic Information Systems and/or remote sensing.

Goal 4: The Department's graduates should understand, analyze, and compare/contrast global regions.

Objective 4.1: They should define, compare, and contrast how regions are defined politically, economically and culturally.

Objective 4.2: They should understand how various factors influence perceptions of regions.

Goal 5: The Department's graduates should know how to apply and analyze ideas and information, make critical evaluations and come to well reasoned decisions or conclusions.

Objective 5.1: They should be able to evaluate the credibility of sources of information and opinion.

Objective 5.2: They should be able to identify and critically analyze credible evidence and develop and defend conclusions.

Goal 6: The Department's graduates should be able to read and understand research literature and engage in productive research activities.

Objective 6.1: They should demonstrate and integrate an understanding of the scientific method.

Objective 6.2: They should explain and critically evaluate research in geography.

Objective 6.3: They should participate in scholarly activities in geography.

Objective 6.4: They should understand and apply basic measurement techniques as they relate to their research objectives.

Goal 7: The Department's graduates should demonstrate professional communication skills.

Objective 7.1: They should write using appropriate spelling, grammar and composition skills.

Objective 7.2: They should write using appropriate citations.

Goal 8: The Department's graduates should understand and apply professional ethical practices.

Objective 8.1: They should follow professional standards of their chosen field of study.

I.C. COURSE OBJECTIVE MATRIX (I=introduced, R=reinforced, E=emphasized)

OBJ	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.1	7.2	8.1
2	I			I	I	I				I	I	I	I					I	I	
4	I	I	I	I	I	I				I	I	I	I					I	I	
5		I	I	I	I	I		I				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
7		I	I	I	I	I		I				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
20	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I			I	I	I			I	I	I	
25	I										I	I	I	I	I			I	I	
30								I				I	I	I	I			I	I	
111		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	I
112		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
114		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
115		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
118		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	I
122		E	E	E	E	E		E				E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
127	E	E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
128		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	I
132	I			E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	I
135				E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
139T		E	E	E	E	E						E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
140						E	I	E	I			E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
141						E	I	E	I			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	I
142						R	E	R	E			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
143						R	R	R	R			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
149	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
150	R	R	R	R	R	R		R		R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	
151		R	R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	
152		R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R			R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	I
160	R			R	R	R		R		R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	

OBJ	1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.1	7.2	8.1
161	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
162	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
163	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
164	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
165	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
166	R					R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
167	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
170T	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
171T	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
172	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
173	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
174	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
175T	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
176	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
177T	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
178	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
179	R			R	R	R				R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
181	R			R	R	R						R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	I
184	R			R	R	R						R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	E
187T	R			R	R	R						R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
190																				
191T																				
192																				
194W																				
195																				

II. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY PLANNING

II.A. DIRECT STUDENT ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

1. The department will maintain a portfolio of completed student papers and projects to be reviewed by department committee.
 - a. A faculty subcommittee will be formed to fulfill this task.
 - b. The department will maintain a portfolio of completed student papers and projects to be reviewed by faculty committee at the end of each academic semester.
 - c. The department will construct and apply a scoring rubric to evaluate the papers and projects collected each semester.
2. The department will develop a senior project or senior culminating experience.
 - a. The senior project involves a written paper and/or oral presentation that illustrates the students' analytical skills, competence with geography tools and techniques, awareness of place and a spatial perspective, and understanding of relationships between humans and environment.
3. Pre- and post- testing will be implemented in several courses.

II.B. INDIRECT STUDENT ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

1. The department will conduct an alumni survey every 2 years to assess the employment status and graduate school placement of our undergraduate majors.
 - a. The survey will include questions about individual job placement, post-graduate school placement and will be sent to each undergraduate geography alumnus. The department staff will organize the returned information into a database and a summary of the data will be provided to faculty and included in the self-assessment report.
2. The department will conduct a senior survey to measure students' self-evaluations of advanced knowledge and of the program's success.
3. The department will organize a student focus group incorporating geography majors and minors to receive feedback regarding our program.

II.C. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES

1. The department will prepare a self-assessment report every five years, including but not limited to retention rates, community interactions, student and faculty research activities, faculty university service, implementation of technology and other program activities.
2. The department will form an advisory board.

III. IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM SOAP: CLOSING THE LOOP TIMELINE

The Department continues to assess learning outcomes. Several assessment activities are ongoing such as the alumni survey, student focus groups and the self-assessment study.

Starting from Year 1, the department will work on the collection and evaluation of student portfolios (see table). The department will form a subcommittee to organize the activities and prepare a scoring rubric. All faculty will participate in the review of the portfolios.

Implementation of several activities will begin in Year 2 such as the senior survey, alumni survey and advisory board.

The remaining direct student assessments will begin in Year 3. During this five-year period, the department will report the ongoing results and review and update this document as needed.

Assessment Activity	Year 1 AY 09/10	Year 2 AY 10/11	Year 3 AY 11/12	Year 4 AY 12/13	Year 5 AY 13/14
Student portfolio					
Faculty subcommittee	X				
Scoring rubric	X				
Implementation		X	X	X	X
Senior project					
Design		X			
Implementation			X	X	X
Pre and post test					
Design		X			
Implementation			X	X	X
Alumni survey					
Improvement	X				
Implementation		X		X	
Senior survey					
Design		X			
Implementation			X	X	X
Self-assessment report					X
Advisory board		X	X	X	X

