

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
B.A. and B.S., Geography
School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

MISSION STATEMENT: The School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences is committed to providing quality education through close student-faculty relationships, development of critical-thinking and decision-making skills, student participation in research and other scholarly activities, and recognizing students' individual interests and needs.

GOAL STATEMENT: Geography majors will become professionals with expertise and skills in physical and human geography, geospatial sciences, and related fields. They will be enabled to investigate, describe, explain, and interpret the physical and human characteristics of the earth, with particular focus on the northern and Pacific Rim regions. This will prepare them to make professional contributions in the areas of geographic research, education, civil service, foreign service, resource management, tourism, and many other academic and applied fields.

Intended Outcomes	Criteria & Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p>Graduates will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to synthesize knowledge and apply critical-thinking skills to thoroughly understand all the dimensions of a given problem. • Be able to develop meaningful solutions to a problem that take multiple environmental, political, economic, and cultural factors into consideration. • Have reached a cognitive and personal development level that enables responsible decision-making relating to geographical problems. • Be able, orally or in writing, to effectively articulate a problem or scenario, explain its underlying causes, and communicate proposed solutions and the reasoning behind them. 	<p>Establish a structure to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student's understanding of concepts and processes in the areas of both physical and human geography. • Student's knowledge of the physical, political, economic, and cultural characteristics of the earth. • Student's ability to think independently, solve problems, and communicate both orally and in writing. 	<p>1. Pre- and post- assessment of geographic knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each new geography student will complete a knowledge-based questionnaire administered in introductory courses such as GEOG 101 and GEOG 111x, to establish baseline data on knowledge of geography. Transfer students will be given the questionnaire by their advisor. • In their last semester, each geography major will complete another knowledge-based questionnaire (administered by their advisor), and the results compared to those of the baseline questionnaire to evaluate the relative knowledge gained from beginning to end of the student's course of study. <p>2. Evaluation of oral & written communication and research skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student's research and communication skills will be evaluated in GEOG 490, the Senior Seminar, a course required for all geography majors, and generally taken in a student's last year. The instructor will fill out a standard written form evaluating each student's research skills and oral & written communication skills. • For each geography major, standard forms evaluating research skills, oral communication skills, and/or writing skills in the following courses will be filled out and kept on file: GEOG 312, GEOG 339, GEOG 489 • Depending on the sequence in which a student takes GEOG 312, 339, 489, and 490, improvement in their oral and written communication skills will be tracked over time.
	<p>Assess needs for adjustments in program</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An anonymous Senior Exit Survey will be administered to each graduating senior by his or her advisor. 2. Dean or associate dean will do exit interviews with graduating seniors near the end of each semester. 3. Alumni survey of recent graduates conducted every five years. 4. An employer survey conducted every five years.