

Assessment: Assessment Plan

Degree Program - AS - Geography (MS)

CIP Code: 45.0701.00

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Modality: Face-to-Face

Student Learning Outcome: Original Research

Students will have conducted a significant piece of original research

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/24/2015

Assessment Methods

Thesis - Each committee member will rate the thesis on the following criteria: appropriateness of methods used.

- Professionally done: The methods used in the research are advancing the discipline
 - Well done: The methods used in the research are widely used by professionals for similar purposes
 - Acceptable: The methods used in the research are adequate for the study
 - Unacceptable: The methods used in the research are inappropriate for the study
- (Active)

Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

Related Documents:

[GEOG_MS_Assessment_Plan \(2015\)](#)

Thesis - Each committee member will rate the thesis on the following criteria: scientific contribution of the work.

- Professionally done: The research is equal in quality to that published in leading journals
 - Well done: The research is equal in quality to that published in second-tier journals
 - Acceptable: The research is reasonably done, but not publishable in a journal
 - Unacceptable: The research was poorly done
- (Active)

Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

Oral exam - Final thesis defense or completion of required courses (Active)

Criterion: Student oral defense and written thesis are professionally done (1 to 4 points with 4 highest)

Schedule: Upon completion of the thesis. For non-thesis students at end of program

Student Learning Outcome: Effective Communication

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Students can communicate effectively

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/24/2015

Assessment Methods

Thesis - Each committee member will rate the thesis for writing quality

- Professionally done: The writing of the thesis is equal to papers published in leading journals.
- Well done: The writing of the thesis is high quality, but not quite at professional standards
- Acceptable: The writing of the thesis meets basic standards for grammar and punctuation, organization, and readability
- Unacceptable: The thesis is poorly written

(Active)

Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

Related Documents:

[GEOG_MS_Assessment_Plan \(2015\)](#)

Thesis - Each committee member will rate the thesis defense for oral communication ability.

- Professionally done: The oral defense of the thesis is equal to papers presented by top scientists
- Well done: The oral defense of the thesis is high quality, but not quite at professional standards
- Acceptable: The oral defense of the thesis meets basic standards for organization and clarity
- Unacceptable: The oral defense of the thesis is unacceptable for organization and clarity

(Active)

Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

Student Learning Outcome: Breadth of knowledge

Students have demonstrated a thorough fundamental knowledge of topics in Geography

Outcome Status: Active

Outcome Type: Student Learning

Start Date: 08/24/2015

Assessment Methods

Course Level Assessment - Instructors of a first required course will rate the comprehensive performance of students using papers, exams, and assignments.

- Holistic understanding: The student has demonstrated exceptional understanding of the course material, including critical linkages with the current state of research in the discipline, and has further successfully integrated concepts from other coursework to broaden understanding.
- Thorough understanding: The student has demonstrated a solid understanding of all of the course material, but has not extrapolated that understanding beyond the confines of the course.
- Adequate understanding: The student has demonstrated adequate understanding of most of the course curriculum, but has demonstrated struggles with portions of the material.
- Unacceptable: The student has not demonstrated an adequate understanding of the course material.

(Active)

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Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Holistic Understanding' or 'Thorough Understanding'

Related Documents:

[GEOG_MS_Assessment_Plan \(2015\)](#)

Course Level Assessment - Instructors of a second required course will rate the comprehensive performance of students using papers, exams, and assignments.

-Holistic understanding: The student has demonstrated exceptional understanding of the course material, including critical linkages with the current state of research in the discipline, and has further successfully integrated concepts from other coursework to broaden understanding.

-Thorough understanding: The student has demonstrated a solid understanding of all of the course material, but has not extrapolated that understanding beyond the confines of the course.

-Adequate understanding: The student has demonstrated adequate understanding of most of the course curriculum, but has demonstrated struggles with portions of the material.

-Unacceptable: The student has not demonstrated an adequate understanding of the course material. (Active)

Criterion: >80% of students receive ratings of 'Holistic Understanding' or 'Thorough Understanding.'

Course Level Assessment - Research papers in two required classes (GEOG 5312 and GEOG 5340) (Active)

Criterion: 80% of student papers will be rated as "well done" or better. A rating of well done means that papers are largely free of grammatical and word use errors, use proper citation form, and demonstrate ability to identify a problem or issue, evaluate it, and propose a possible resolution.

Schedule: Annual