The Urban and Regional Planning program prepares students for a wide variety of government and private sector employment opportunities relating to land-use, transportation, economic development, natural resource and waste-management planning occupations. The Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to evaluate and facilitate programs that benefit our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and regions. In addition to general and specialized lecture-format courses, the program offers a variety of project-based lab and field-trip experiences, career development through advising, job-shadowing and internships as well as team-building and leadership opportunities available by joining one or more geography department student organizations. The Urban and Regional Planning program also prepares students for graduate studies in planning and planning-related fields. Finally, the Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the foundation for a liberal education, preparing graduates to think independently, to choose freely and to base personal and professional decisions on a broad understanding of the Earth's physical and cultural landscapes in order to live full, rewarding lives.

Assessment results of this year’s geographic information systems (GIS) knowledge questions for Outcome 4 - Method 1 show a 15% increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations compared to AY 2010 – 2011.

Assessment results of this year’s Planning Practicum final project (Land Use Concept Plan) for Outcome 5 - Method 2 show a 22% increase in the number of students exceeding expectations compared to AY 2010 – 2011.

For Outcome 3 – Method 1, instructor will use AY 2011 – 2012 results as new baseline data and add embedded questions to evaluate student knowledge of inferential statistics.

For Outcome 4 – Method 2, instructor will revise grading rubrics for final project so that students can be better differentiated based on the quality of their work and so that outstanding students can be challenged to more fully develop their potential.

For Outcome 5 – Method 1, instructor will develop additional learning aids – glossaries and quizzes – to help students grasp the lexicon of planning and the details of zoning ordinances.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major physical features on a map.

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

During the fall 2011 semester, 355 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 90.3% of the undergraduate students met (31.8%) or exceeded (58.5%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – related to the physical features of Africa - still had at least 85% of the students getting them correct. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed
on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 1 - Method 2 - Result**

During the fall 2011 semester, 355 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 82.2% of the undergraduate students met (46.5%) or exceeded (35.7%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. Students failed to meet the 70% target on two map locations: both in Africa (62.7% and 61.4%). Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions compared to knowledge questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions, which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as know that location on a map.

**Outcome 2**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major cultural features on a map.

**Outcome 2 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 2 - Method 1 - Result**

During the fall 2011 semester, 355 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 89.0% of the undergraduate students met (45.5%) or exceeded (43.5%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. No questions for this outcome and method had less than an 80% correct response rate. Given these findings, students should improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

**Outcome 2 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 2 - Method 2 - Result**

During the fall 2011 semester, 355 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 79.8% of the undergraduate students met (47%) or exceeded (32.8%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. No questions for this outcome and method had less than an 80% correct response rate. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions compared to knowledge questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as knowing that location on a map.

**Outcome 3**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative methods used by geographers and their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems.

**Outcome 3 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of quantitative methods using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.
Outcome 3 - Method 1 - Result
During the spring 2010 semester, 69 undergraduate students were assessed during the semester by instructor on their knowledge of quantitative methods using embedded test questions from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). 73% of the students met (52%) or exceeded (21%) expectations on embedded knowledge questions related to measurement and descriptive statistics. 81% of the students met (64%) or exceeded (17%) expectations on embedded knowledge questions related to bivariate relationships and spatial statistics.

Outcome 3 - Method 2
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 3 - Method 2 - Result
During the spring 2012 semester, 69 undergraduate students were assessed on their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems using a final project graded with rubric from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). 81% of the students met (64%) or exceeded (17%) expectations on their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. Students lost most points by failing to follow assignment instructions.

Outcome 4
Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and theories of geographic information systems (GIS) and use the tools and methods of GIS.

Outcome 4 - Method 1
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of geographic information systems using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 4 - Method 1 - Result
During the fall 2011 semester, 54 undergraduate students were assessed during and at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of geographic information systems using knowledge questions embedded in the midterm and final exams for Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Overall, 90.8% of the students met or exceeded expectations - an improvement of more than 15% compared to AY 2010 – 2011.

Outcome 4 - Method 2
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use the tools and methods of GIS using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 4 - Method 2 - Result
During the fall 2011 semester, 54 undergraduate students were assessed at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use the tools and methods of GIS with a final project using a grading matrix in the lab section of Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). 96.3 % of the students met or exceeded expectations - an improvement of 4.5% compared to AY 2010 – 2011.

Outcome 5
Students will demonstrate their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land; they will demonstrate this knowledge through embedded test items and a project.

Outcome 5 - Method 1
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of urban and regional planning using approximately 10 embedded test questions from the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.
During the spring 2012 semester, 18 undergraduate students were assessed by instructor on their knowledge of urban and regional planning using 10 questions embedded in the final exam. 78% of the students met expectations answering the embedded knowledge questions. Frequently missed questions tested knowledge of planning lexicon and zoning ordinances. Given these findings, students should improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 5 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to create a land-use plan in order to demonstrate student knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land as an embedded class project for the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Instructors will use a grading rubric (scored from 0 – 10) to assess student ability on the basis of “failure to meet,” “meeting,” or “exceeding expectations,” (Score 10 = exceeded expectations, score 7 – 9 = met expectations, score 6 or less = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 5 - Method 2 - Result

During the spring 2012 semester, 18 undergraduate students were assessed on a class project in order to measure their ability to create a land use plan – including a conceptual site plan map. The course instructor found that 83% of the undergraduate students met (22%) or exceeded (61%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to create a land use plan. Some students have difficulty in three areas: 1) basic map-making (cartographic) skills; 2) basic word-processing and computer-presentation software skills; 3) following assignment instructions. Given these findings, students could improve their land use plans by spending more time polishing their projects into professional-looking documents and paying more attention to following assignment instructions as prompted by the instructor. Several of the students who exceeded expectations produced very professional plans.

Approval History

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General Information

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Mission Statement

The Urban and Regional Planning program prepares students for a wide variety of government and private sector employment opportunities relating to land-use, transportation, economic development, natural resource and waste-management planning occupations. The Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to evaluate and facilitate programs that benefit our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and regions. In addition to general and specialized lecture-format courses, the program offers a variety of project-based lab and field-trip experiences, career development through advising, job-shadowing and internships as well as team-building and leadership opportunities available by joining one or more geography department student organizations. The Urban and Regional Planning program also prepares students for graduate studies in planning and planning-related fields. Finally, the Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the foundation for a liberal education, preparing graduates to think independently, to choose freely and to base personal and professional decisions on a broad understanding of the Earth’s physical and cultural landscapes in order to live full, rewarding lives.

Evidence of Improvement

Assessment results of this year’s embedded knowledge questions for Outcome 1, Method 1 show that 89.1% of the students met or exceeded expectations compared to 86.6% of students meeting or exceeding expectations during the 2009-2010 academic year – a 2.5% improvement.

Assessment results of this year’s embedded questions for Outcome 3, Method 2 show that 97% of the students met or exceeded expectations compared to 90% of students meeting or exceeding expectation during the 2009-2010 academic year – a 7% improvement.

Assessment results of this year’s embedded questions for Outcome 4, Method 2 show that 91.8% of the students met or exceeded expectations compared to 79% of students meeting or exceeding expectation during the 2009-2010 academic year – a 12.8% improvement.

Assessment results of this year’s embedded class project for Outcome 5, Method 2 show that 88% of the students met or exceeded expectations compared to 86% of students meeting or exceeding expectation during the 2009-2010 academic year – a 2% improvement.

Based in large part on the Learning Outcomes Assessment process, the undergraduate committee recommended and the full faculty approved several changes — including renaming and updating catalog course descriptions as well as updating prerequisites - to the Urban and Regional Planning major this year. Changes to course names and catalog descriptions more accurately reflect course content. Changes to the prerequisites will serve to clarify course sequencing and reserve the two 4000-level courses for Urban and Regional Planning majors.

Action Plan

Based on the results of this large sample (n=450), the course instructor will focus extra emphasis on frequently missed knowledge questions and spend additional time on the Asia and Africa regions during the next academic year (2010 – 2011). For the 2009-2010 academic year, it was speculated that the weaker performance on Asia was related to that particular section of the course having substantially more information that students need to study in preparation for the exam. Asia was split up, with Southeast Asia’s material joining the Africa material at the end of the course. However, this may have resulted in the difficulty being spread out, as the Asia questions improved, but the Africa questions saw decline from the previous year. Also, there may be a regression to the mean that may result from the sample from the fall 2010 semester being double the size of the previous year’s sample. The course instructor will continue to emphasize the complex nature of the map questions, which go beyond merely knowing and remembering but also understanding and applying knowledge, to help students better prepare for their examinations. This will involve students doing additional map exercises to become more familiar with using maps as geographic tools.

Based on the results of this large sample (n=450), the course instructor will focus extra emphasis on frequently missed knowledge questions including spending additional time on the cultural features of Africa during the next academic year. The weaker performance on Africa may also be related to that particular section of the course having substantially more information with the inclusion of Southeast Asia, a change that was considered in last year’s report. That additional information of a relatively unfamiliar region to a unit covering an extremely unfamiliar region may have resulted in time constraints and possible information overload. Also, the slight degree of the decline may also be a result of a sample size that was double the size of the previous year’s sample size, indicating a possible regression to the mean. The course instructor will also emphasize the complex nature of the map questions, which go beyond merely knowing and remembering but also understanding and applying knowledge, to help students better prepare for their examinations. This will involve students doing additional map exercises to become more familiar with using maps as geographic tools.

Although Math 1315 College Algebra is a prerequisite for our quantitative methods course many students continue to have difficulty with basic arithmetic and algebra. As in the past, course instructor had to spend significant time reviewing basic mathematical operations and techniques.
Course instructor will continue to review basis math as required.

During this assessment period course instructor introduced a field sampling problem that required statistical analysis using either Excel™ or SPSS™. Moreover, the instructions were general in nature, not a “cookbook recipe.” Initially, this frustrated the students, but they quickly learned to build the equations and formulas in the software packages. The sampling exercise required both collection of primary data and spatial analysis of these data. Course instructor expanded this exercise and incorporated a day in the field to collect data. Students analyzed these data and wrote a research report based on their sample and the analysis. Course instructor also spent more time on graphing and charting techniques and theory. Course instructor will continue to expand the above and will also spend more time using SPSS.

Based on the results of this analysis (n=49), the course instructor will review other methods of teaching about 1) scales of measurement, 2) spatial data abstraction theory, and 3) data classification methods. After reviewing the learning outcome measurement method for the GEO2426 lecture section (Method 1) it was found that the current test questions might not capture some essential spatial learning outcomes. Thus, in the 2011/2012 academic year the instructor will review and redesign (if necessary) the 10 embedded test questions. Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 - 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major physical features on a map.

Outcome 1 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 1 - Method 1 - Result

During the fall 2010 semester, 450 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 89.1% of the undergraduate students met (33.8%) or exceeded (55.3%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – related to the physical features of Africa - still had at least 80% of the students getting them correct. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 1 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 1 - Method 2 - Result

During the fall 2010 semester, 450 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 79.7% of the undergraduate students met (49.5%) or exceeded (30.2%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. Students failed to meet the 70% target on three map locations: one in Asia (65.3%) and two in Africa (68.6% and 60%). Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions compared to knowledge questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions, which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as know that location on a map.

Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major cultural features on a map.
Outcome 2 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 2 - Method 2 - Result

During the fall 2010 semester, 450 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 87.1% of the undergraduate students met (46.3%) or exceeded (40.8%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – a cultural question from Latin America – missed the 70% target just slightly (68.9%). This may be due to the relative lack to time given to the material to which this question pertained. In fact, no other question for this outcome and method had less than an 80% correct response rate. Given these findings, students should improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 2 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 2 - Method 2 - Result

During the fall 2010 semester, 450 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 79.7% of the undergraduate students met (49.2%) or exceeded (30.5%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. Students failed to meet the 70% target on one question related to the cultural features of Africa (64.3%). Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as knowing that location on a map.

Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative methods used by geographers and their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems.

Outcome 3 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of quantitative methods using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 3 - Method 1 - Result

During fall 2010, 20 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their basic knowledge of quantitative methods for geography. The course instructor found that 97% of the undergraduate students met (50%) or exceeded (47%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of quantitative methods for geography. The 3% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with basic arithmetic and algebra skills. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge of basic arithmetic and algebra skills as prompted by the instructor. Also, this particular student had significant attendance problems.

Outcome 3 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 3 - Method 2 - Result

During fall 2010, 39 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. The course instructor found that 59.0% of the undergraduate students met expectations, and 38.0%
exceeded expectations, by demonstrating their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. The 3.0% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty drawing conclusions from their data. Furthermore, the students who failed to meet expectations regarding software analysis had significant attendance problems.

**Outcome 4**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and theories of geographic information systems (GIS) and use the tools and methods of GIS.

**Outcome 4 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of geographic information systems using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 4 - Method 2**

During AY 2010-2011, 49 undergraduate students were assessed using 10 embedded test questions in the midterm and final exam in order to measure their understanding of the general concepts of geographic information systems (GIS). The course instructor found that 75.48% of all undergraduate students met expectations. Three embedded questions failed to meet the 70% threshold. These questions were related to 1) the scales of measurement, 2) spatial data abstraction theory, and 3) data classification methods. Given these findings, additional class exercises will be developed to address these theoretical concepts. In addition, students will be asked to keep up with weekly readings and assignments.

**Outcome 4 - Method 2 - Result**

During AY 2010-2011 the lab learning outcomes of 49 undergraduate students were assessed using a final project grading matrix. The course instructor found that 91.8% of the undergraduate students met expectations by demonstrating their ability to utilize a GIS to work on a project and answer geographic questions.

**Outcome 5**

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land; they will demonstrate this knowledge through embedded test items and a project.

**Outcome 5 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of urban and regional planning using approximately 10 embedded test questions from the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 5 - Method 1 - Result**

During fall 2010, 36 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 91.7% of all undergraduate students met expectations. Three embedded questions failed to meet the 70% threshold. These questions were related to 1) the scales of measurement, 2) spatial data abstraction theory, and 3) data classification methods. Given these findings, additional class exercises will be developed to address these theoretical concepts. In addition, students will be asked to keep up with weekly readings and assignments.

**Outcome 5 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to create a land-use plan in order to demonstrate student knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land as an embedded class project for the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Instructors will use a grading rubric (scored from 0 – 10) to assess student ability on the basis of “failure to meet,” “meeting,” or “exceeding expectations.” (Score 10 = exceeded expectations, score 7 – 9 = met expectations, score 6 or less = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.
During fall 2010, 34 undergraduate students were assessed on a class project in order to measure their ability to create a land use plan – including a conceptual site plan map – demonstrating their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 88% of the undergraduate students met (38%) or exceeded (50%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to create a land-use plan in order to show their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The 12% of the students who failed to meet expectations this year continue to have the most difficulty in three areas: 1) basic map-making (cartographic) skills; 2) basic word-processing and computer-presentation software skills; 3) following assignment instructions. The increasing number of non-geography majors taking this capstone geography course may be influencing these results. Given these findings, students could improve their cartographic and computer skills by spending more time polishing their projects into professional-looking documents and paying more attention to following assignment instructions as prompted by the instructor. Several of the students who exceeded expectations produced very professional plans using a variety of resources including google maps and google sketch-up software.

Approval History

Approval History Event
Outcomes Approved Level 1
Outcomes Approved Level 2
Outcomes Audit Report Submitted
Results Approved Level 1
Results Approved Level 2
Results Audit Report Submitted
Despite the fact that Math 1315 College Algebra is a prerequisite for our quantitative methods course, many students continue to have difficulty with basic arithmetic and algebra. As in the past, instructor had to spend significant time reviewing basic mathematical operations and techniques and plans to continue to do so in the future as required. Instructor also plans to elaborate on a field sampling problem collecting primary spatial data that requires statistical analysis using either Excel or SPSS.
Based on the results of this analysis (n=102), course instructors will meet and discuss better methods of teaching about 1) the history of Geographic Information Systems; 2) projections and coordinate systems, and 3) spatial analysis methods. After reviewing the learning outcome measurement method for the GEO2426 lab (Method 2), the instructors decided that the current format might not capture some essential spatial learning outcomes. In the 2010/2011 academic year the instructors will measure the lab learning outcomes with a final project grading matrix. The matrix will review 7 skill categories (Asking Geographic Questions, Researching Background Information, Collecting and Editing Geographic Data, Analyzing Geographic Data, Map Design, Answering Geographic Questions, Poster Design and Presentation). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the final project grading matrix: 19-21 points = exceeded expectations, 14-18 points = met expectations, 13 or fewer points = failed to meet expectations.

Students should continue to review basic cartographic skills using an on-line tutorial http://www.colorado.edu/geography/gcraft/notes/cartocom/cartocom_f.html and additional explanation by instructor, especially with the increasing number of non-geography majors taking this capstone geography course. Students should continue to practice their basic word-processing and computer-presentation software skills as assisted by instructor by example. Finally, students will complete a new exercise that will reinforce the importance of following precise instructions. Instructor will identify a resource for this exercise.

Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major physical features on a map.

Outcome 1 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 1 - Method 1 - Result

During the fall 2009 semester, 225 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 86.6% of the undergraduate students met (33.5%) or exceeded (53.1%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth, which exceeded our target. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – related to the physical features of Asia - still met the 70% target. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 1 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 1 - Method 2 - Result

During the fall 2009 semester, 225 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 79.8% of the undergraduate students met (48.8%) or exceeded (31%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map, which exceeded our target. Students failed to meet the 70% target on one map location: Africa (68.7%). Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions compared to knowledge questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions, which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as know that location on a map.

Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major cultural features on a map.

Outcome 2 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.
Outcome 2 - Method 1 - Result

During the fall 2009 semester, 225 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 90.7% of the undergraduate students met (44.2%) or exceeded (46.5%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth, which exceeded our target. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – cultural and political features in Asia such as defining a ‘forward capital’ and Asian languages – still met the 70% target. In fact, no question for this outcome and method had less than a 76% correct response rate. Given these findings, students should improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 2 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 81.9% of the undergraduate students met (58.7%) or exceeded (23.2%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map, which exceeded our target. Students failed to meet the 70% target on one question related to the cultural features of Asia (64.8%). Given these findings, students should continue to improve their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as knowing that location on a map.

Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative methods used by geographers and their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems.

Outcome 3 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of quantitative methods using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 3 - Method 2

During spring 2010, 20 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of quantitative methods for geography. The course instructor found that 99% of the undergraduate students met (50%) or exceeded (49%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of quantitative methods for geography, which exceeded our target. The 1% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with basic arithmetic and algebra skills. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge of basic arithmetic and algebra skills as prompted by the instructor. Also, students who failed to meet expectations had significant attendance problems.

Outcome 3 - Method 2 - Result

During spring 2010, 20 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. The course instructor found that 90% of the undergraduate students met (45%) or exceeded (45%) expectations, by demonstrating their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems, which exceeded our target. The 10% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with the process of drawing conclusions from their data. Furthermore, the students who failed to meet expectations with statistical software analysis had significant attendance problems. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their skill at drawing conclusions from data analyzed using statistical software to solve geographic problems as prompted by instructor.
Outcome 4
Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and theories of geographic information systems (GIS) and use the tools and methods of GIS.

Outcome 4 - Method 1
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of geographic information systems using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 4 - Method 1 - Result
During the 2009-2010 academic year 102 undergraduate students were assessed using 10 embedded test questions in the course final exam in order to measure their understanding of the general concepts of geographic information systems (GIS). The course instructor found that 77% of undergraduate students met expectations with no students exceeding expectations, which met our target. During this assessment period, students had difficulty with the following concepts: 1) understanding the difference between a map and a Geographic Information System; 2) distinguishing between projections and coordinate systems; 3) data classification methods. The concept of 'errors in geographic data sets' that was previously identified (AY 2008-2009) as a problem area has been corrected. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge of and understanding of data classification with a review of basic quantitative methods for geographers during the first weeks of class each semester as led by instructor. In addition, instructor should emphasize the link between the theoretical knowledge learned in class and lab exercises designed to reinforce that knowledge that will help clarify the other problem areas identified above.

Outcome 4 - Method 2
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use the tools and methods of GIS using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 4 - Method 2 - Result
During the 2009-2010 academic year 102 undergraduate students were assessed using 10 embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions. The course instructor found that 79% of the undergraduate students met expectations by demonstrating their ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions with no students exceeding expectations, which met our target. Although meeting the 70% target, students showed weaknesses in two areas: 1) spatial joins and 2) map overlay. Problems with 1) results analysis and 2) presentation format that were previously identified (AY 2008-2009) have been corrected. Given these findings, students should improve their lab-based skills and ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions by considering each lab exercise in a coordinated sequence and reviewing the previous lab prior to attempting the next as well as a review of basic math skills for geographers as prompted by instructor.

Outcome 5
Students will demonstrate their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land; they will demonstrate this knowledge through embedded test items and a project.

Outcome 5 - Method 1
Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of urban and regional planning using approximately 10 embedded test questions from the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Students' ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students' total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 5 - Method 1 - Result
During Fall 2009, 40 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 92% of the undergraduate students met (55%) or exceeded (37%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of land use planning by answering the following essay question: “Explain how effective land management influences the utility of the land. Provide at least one specific example to illustrate how land-use regulatory tools impact the economy, the environment and society. Use the planning lexicon you learned this semester.” Thus, we exceeded our target. The 13% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with planning acronyms and lexicon as well as I suspect, a basic understanding of the question. The increasing number of non-geography majors taking this capstone geography course may be influencing these results. Given these findings, students should continue to improve their knowledge by focusing more study on planning acronyms and lexicon.
as well as some additional basic geography and planning concepts as prompted by the instructor.

**Outcome 5 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to create a land-use plan in order to demonstrate student knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land as an embedded class project for the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Instructors will use a grading rubric (scored from 0 – 10) to assess student ability on the basis of “failure to meet,” “meeting,” or “exceeding expectations.” (Score 10 = exceeded expectations, score 7 – 9 = met expectations, score 6 or less = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 5 - Method 2 - Result**

During Fall 2009, 39 undergraduate students were assessed on a class project in order to measure their ability to create a land use plan – including a conceptual site plan map – demonstrating their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 86% of the undergraduate students met (51%) or exceeded (35%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to create a land-use plan in order to show their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. Thus, we exceeded our target. The 20% of the students who failed to meet expectations this year had the most difficulty in three areas: 1) basic map-making (cartographic) skills; 2) basic word-processing and computer-presentation software skills; 3) following assignment instructions. The increasing number of non-geography majors taking this capstone geography course may be influencing these results. Given these findings, students could improve their cartographic and computer skills by spending more time polishing their projects into professional-looking documents and paying more attention to assignment instructions as prompted by the instructor. Several of the students who exceeded expectations produced very professional plans using a variety of resources including Google maps and Google sketch-up software. A Google sketch-up software presentation may have inspired these students.

**Approval History**

**Approval History Event**

Outcomes Approved Level 1
Outcomes Approved Level 2
Outcomes Audit Report Submitted
Results Approved Level 1
Results Approved Level 2
Results Audit Report Submitted
Students will focus extra study on planning acronyms and lexicon by completing a specific assignment, created by the course instructor, to reinforce within a MS PowerPoint presentation, rather than using simple screen-shots.

...Instructors will provide a brief summary of quantitative methods during the first week of class. Students will do two new lab exercises that will 1) help students analyze the results of their GIS more rigorously and 2) learn how to use the 'map layout' function of the GIS software to present GIS maps in their reports. This year, this was no longer an area of distinct weakness.

Based on the results of this large sample (n=647), the course instructor will focus extra emphasis on frequently missed knowledge questions and spend additional time on the Asian region during the next academic year (2009 – 2010). The course instructor will also emphasize the complex nature of the map questions, which go beyond merely knowing and remembering but also understanding and applying knowledge, to help students better prepare for their examinations. This will involve students doing additional map exercises to become more familiar with using maps as geographic tools.

Based on the results of this large sample (n=647), the course instructor will focus extra emphasis on frequently missed knowledge questions including spending additional time on the cultural features of Asia, South American and Africa during the next academic year. The course instructor will also emphasize the complex nature of the map questions, which go beyond merely knowing and remembering but also understanding and applying knowledge, to help students better prepare for their examinations. This will involve students doing additional map exercises to become more familiar with using maps as geographic tools.

Despite the fact that Math 1315 College Algebra is a prerequisite for our quantitative methods course, it will be necessary for students to focus extra study on basic arithmetic and algebra skills by participating in a review-session activity created by the instructor. Students will also receive additional practice drawing conclusions from data analyzed using statistical software to solve geographic problems, through additional exercises prepared by the instructor.

Based on the results of this sample (n=61), course lecture instructors will meet and discuss methods to teach: 1) the geometry of spatial joins; 2) errors in geographic data sets; 3) data classification methods. Since all of these items relate to quantitative methods in geography, lecture instructors will provide a brief summary of quantitative methods during the first week of class. Students will do two new lab exercises that will 1) help students analyze the results of their GIS more rigorously and 2) learn how to use the 'map layout' function of the GIS software to present GIS maps within a MS PowerPoint presentation, rather than using simple screen-shots.

Students will focus extra study on planning acronyms and lexicon by completing a specific assignment, created by the course instructor, to reinforce...
their planning vocabulary. Students will also review basic cartographic skills using a new handout to be created by the course instructor. Finally, students will complete a new exercise that will reinforce the importance of following precise instructions.

Deleted.

**Outcome 1**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major physical features on a map. We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 1 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

**Outcome 1 - Method 1 - Result**

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 647 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 82.8% of the undergraduate students met (32.8%) or exceeded (50%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major physical features of the Earth. The most frequently missed knowledge questions - related to climate, tectonic activity and the physical features of the Asian sub-continent - still met the 70% target. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

**Outcome 1 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

**Outcome 1 - Method 2 - Result**

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 647 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 79.5% of the undergraduate students met (50%) or exceeded (29.5%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map. Students failed to meet the 70% target on two map locations: Middle America (69.6%) and Asia (57%). Given these findings, students could improve their ability to locate examples of major physical features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions, which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as know that location on a map.

**Outcome 2**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth and the ability to locate examples of Earth’s major cultural features on a map. We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 2 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

**Outcome 2 - Method 1 - Result**

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 647 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. The course instructor found that 87.5% of the undergraduate students met (57.5%) or exceeded (30%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of the major cultural features of the Earth. The most frequently missed knowledge questions – cultural and political features in Asia such as defining a ‘forward capital’ and Asian languages – still met the 70% target. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor.

**Outcome 2 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map using 10 embedded test questions from the course: World Regional Geography (GEO 1310). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test.
questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

Outcome 2 - Method 2 - Result

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 647 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. The course instructor found that 80.2% of the undergraduate students met (70.2%) or exceeded (10%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map. Students failed to meet the 70% target on two questions related to the cultural features of South America (69.4%) and Africa (69.2%). Given these findings, students could improve their ability to locate examples of major cultural features of the Earth on a map by focusing more study on these weaker areas as prompted by the instructor. Slightly lower scores on map questions may be the result of the complex nature of the map location questions which require students to examine information about a location and select the correct answer based on that information, as well as knowing that location on a map.

Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate knowledge of quantitative methods used by geographers and their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 3 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of quantitative methods using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

Outcome 3 - Method 1 - Result

During spring 2008, 39 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of quantitative methods for geography. The course instructor found that 70.4% of the undergraduate students met (50.4%) or exceeded (20%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of quantitative methods for geography. The 29.6% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with basic arithmetic and algebra skills. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge of basic arithmetic and algebra skills as prompted by the instructor.

Outcome 3 - Method 2

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Quantitative Methods for Geography (GEO 3301). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

Outcome 3 - Method 2 - Result

During spring 2008, 39 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. The course instructor found that 70.8% of the undergraduate students met expectations, and none exceeded expectations, by demonstrating their ability to use statistical software to solve geographic problems. The 29.2% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with the process of drawing conclusions from their data. Given these findings, students could improve their skill at drawing conclusions from data analyzed using statistical software to solve geographic problems as prompted by instructor.

Outcome 4

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and theories of geographic information systems (GIS) and use the tools and methods of GIS. We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

Outcome 4 - Method 1

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of geographic information systems using 10 embedded test questions from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

Outcome 4 - Method 1 - Result

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 118 undergraduate students were assessed using 10 embedded test questions in the course final exam in order to measure their understanding of the general concepts of geographic information systems (GIS). The course instructor found that all undergraduate students met expectations. Three embedded questions related to spatial analysis failed to reach the 70% target: 1) the geometry of spatial joins; 2) errors in geographic data sets; 3) data classification methods. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge of GIS.
spatial analysis with a review of basic quantitative methods for geographers during the first weeks of class each semester.

**Outcome 4 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to use the tools and methods of GIS using 10 test questions embedded in lab assignments and/or lab quizzes from the course: Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GEO 2426). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

**Outcome 4 - Method 2 - Result**

During the 2008-2009 academic year, 61 undergraduate students were assessed using 10 embedded test questions in order to measure their ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions. The course instructor found that 92% of the undergraduate students met expectations by demonstrating their ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions. Although meeting the 70% target, students showed weaknesses in two areas: 1) results analysis and 2) presentation format. Given these findings, students could improve their ability to utilize a GIS to answer geographic questions by 1) learning to summarize the steps in the process in order to better explain the results, and 2) by practicing the skill of presenting GIS maps within a MS PowerPoint presentation.

**Outcome 5**

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land; they will demonstrate this knowledge through embedded test items and a project. We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome.

**Outcome 5 - Method 1**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their knowledge of urban and regional planning using approximately 10 embedded test questions from the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Students’ ability will be assessed on the basis of failure to meet, meeting, or exceeding expectations, which will be determined by the students’ total score on the embedded test questions. (10 questions correct = exceeded expectations, 7 – 9 questions correct = met expectations, 6 or fewer questions correct = failed to meet expectations.)

**Outcome 5 - Method 1 - Result**

During Fall 2008, 37 undergraduate students were assessed using embedded test questions in order to measure their knowledge of urban and regional planning and how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 73% of the undergraduate students met (57%) or exceeded (16%) expectations by demonstrating their knowledge of land use planning by answering the following essay question: “Explain how effective land management influences the utility of the land. Provide at least one specific example to illustrate how land-use regulatory tools impact the economy, the environment and society. Use the planning lexicon you learned this semester.” The 27% of the students who failed to meet expectations had the most difficulty with planning acronyms and lexicon. Given these findings, students could improve their knowledge by focusing more study on planning acronyms and lexicon as prompted by the instructor.

**Outcome 5 - Method 2**

Students will be evaluated during and/or at the end of the semester by instructors on their ability to create a land-use plan in order to demonstrate student knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land as an embedded class project for the course: Land Use Planning (GEO 4338). Instructors will use a grading rubric (scored from 0 – 10) to assess student ability on the basis of “failure to meet,” “meeting,” or “exceeding expectations,” (Score 10 = exceeded expectations, score 7 – 9 = met expectations, score 6 or less = failed to meet expectations.) We expect at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations.

**Outcome 5 - Method 2 - Result**

During Fall 2008, 37 undergraduate students were assessed on a class project in order to measure their ability to create a land use plan – including a conceptual site plan map – demonstrating their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The course instructor found that 75% of the undergraduate students met (64%) or exceeded (11%) expectations by demonstrating their ability to create a land-use plan in order to show their knowledge of how effective land management influences the utility of the land. The 25% of the students who failed to meet expectations this year had the most difficulty in three areas: 1) basic map-making (cartographic) skills; 2) basic word-processing and computer-presentation software skills; 3) following assignment instructions. Given these findings, students could improve their cartographic and computer skills by spending more time polishing their projects into professional-looking documents and paying more attention to following assignment instructions as prompted by the instructor. Last year, the instructor had noted distinct weakness in many students’ ability to format web-based resources such as on-line maps and images into their reports. This year, this was no longer an area of distinct weakness.

**Outcome 6**

Deleted.

**Outcome 6 - Method 1**

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Mission Statement

The Urban and Regional Planning program prepares students for a wide variety of government and private sector employment opportunities relating to land-use, transportation, economic development, natural resource and waste-management planning occupations. The Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the knowledge and skills required to evaluate and facilitate programs that benefit our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and regions. In addition to general and specialized lecture-format courses, the program offers a variety of project-based lab and field-trip experiences, career development through advising, job-shadowing and internships as well as team-building and leadership opportunities available by joining one or more geography department student organizations. The Urban and Regional Planning program also prepares students for graduate studies in planning and planning-related fields. Finally, the Urban and Regional Planning program provides students with the foundation for a liberal education, preparing graduates to think independently, to choose freely and to base personal and professional decisions on a broad understanding of the Earth's physical and cultural landscapes in order to live full, rewarding lives.

Evidence of Improvement

We have collected data for AY 2006 / 2007 & AY 2007 / 2008, so can only make preliminary conclusions as a result. We have been working to refine our data collection processes and our action plans. Assessment results of our syllabi review indicate that most (approximately 80%) of these syllabi show evidence of including the required topics. Details provided in Action Plan section for each outcome. Assessment results of embedded questions show that approximately 70% of students answered these embedded questions correctly. Advanced students completed project-based assignments successfully. Details of missed questions provided in Action Plan section for each outcome. Instructor feedback has helped drive the following enhancements that apply to all of our undergraduate programs this AY 2007 / 2008: 1) Improvement of undergraduate student learning through refinement of Teaching Geography courses for graduate instructors of record and lab assistants who teach undergraduate sections, (2) Creation of new lower-level meteorology course to increase physical geography learning opportunities, (3) New computer lab for quantitative methods courses to allow for additional demonstration / use of statistical software, (4) New prerequisite of MATH 1315 (College Algebra) for GEO 3301 Quantitative Methods course.

Action Plan

We will no longer use syllabi review in the future, since that is an indirect method; however, instructors will complete their own topics checklists beginning fall 2008. Examining the topics checklist will help remind instructors to specify these important introductory geography topics.

We will turn our attention to direct methods using embedded test questions to measure success of outcomes. In addition in the fall, we will reinforce the need to focus on problem areas (Earth / sun relationships and climate zone factors) as part of our instruction to graduate teaching assistants in GEO 5150 / 5250 and 7150 / 7250 (Teaching Geography). Students will be given specific out of class mapping activities to reinforce these skills.

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Upon reflection, we plan to combine Outcomes 5 & 6 Fall 2008.

We will combine Outcomes 5 & 6 for 2008 - 2008 - eliminating the syllabi review.
Encourage instructors to create handouts or presentations to help students with problem areas according to instructor comments.

Outcome 1
Outcome 1 – All Geography Majors: “The Geographic Perspective.” Students will learn to analyze the physical and cultural realms of our world by comparing and contrasting similarities and differences of the major world regions with an emphasis on remarkable physical features and cultural specialties as well as human impacts on the natural environment including the ethical need for environmental stewardship in order to synthesize a value-based interpretation of the world from a geographic perspective and to become positive contributors to the diverse community to which we all belong.

Outcome 1 - Method 1
Assessment Method #1 - Syllabus Review
Syllabus Review. (A) Review GEO 1309: Cultural Geography syllabi using SyllabusContent Checklist. This is a required course (and/or 1310: World Regional) for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course. (B) Review GEO 1310: World Regional Geography syllabi using SyllabusContent Checklist. This is a required course (and/or 1309: Cultural) for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course, which necessitated that we review the syllabi of all instructors to ensure that the outcomes are part of the curriculum. That said, indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year; however it is certainly an important first step in assessment.
GEO 1310 Topics List: World RegionalGeography syllabi by comparing to syllabi content checklist: 1) Introduction toPhysical and Cultural GEO; 2) Map and Globe Skills; 3) Earth Generalizations; 4) Population; 5) World Regions; 6) Europe; 7) Asia; 8) Latin America; 9) Africa; 10) Oceania; 11 - 20) Other Regional Breakdowns depending on instructor.

Outcome 1 - Method 1 - Result
Overall, three course syllabi (GEO 1310) met expectations (that is, 80% of the course topics were listed on the syllabi); one course (GEO 1309) did not meet expectations. Although minimum standards were met in three course syllabi, only one course syllabus (GEO 1310) included Map and Globe skills, and only one syllabus (GEO 1310) included Population as a topic.

Outcome 1 - Method 2
Assessment Method #2: Course-Embedded Assessment
Assessment derives from locally developed examinations for GEO 1309 and/or GEO 1310, which are courses required for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of these courses.

Outcome 1 - Method 2 - Result
In GEO 1309, 70% of students answered 18 of the 19 embedded questions correctly. In GEO 1310, with a sample of 321 to 338 students (3 large sections fall 2007 & spring 2008), students responded to 20 embedded questions. 70% of students answered 15 of the 20 questions correctly. An analysis of missed questions revealed some deficiency in students’ learning in the area of cultural geography.

Outcome 2
Outcome 2 – All Geography Majors: “The Natural-Physical Environment.” Students will learn to analyze how the Earth works as an energy/matter system with an emphasis on the inputs of solar and internal Earth energy in order to synthesize an understanding of the Earth’s atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, and lithosphere and explain the spatial distributions of the Earth’s environments and physical features from a geographic perspective. Students will learn to measure and analyze the Earth’s physical processes and patterns on the landscape by developing skills such as map reading, scientific methodology, data collection / evaluation and geographic fieldwork. Lab projects provide students an opportunity to practice working in small groups and to learn to speak intelligently about the physical aspects of our world using the lexicon of physical geography. Lab reports provide students an opportunity to practice concise, coherent writing.

Outcome 2 - Method 1
Assessment Method #1: Syllabus Review
Syllabus Review. Review GEO 2410 syllabi for the lecture and lab sections. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course, which necessitated that we review the syllabi of all instructors to ensure that the outcomes are part of the curriculum. That said, indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year; however it is certainly an important first step in assessment.
All(100%) of the syllabi evidenced inclusion of these topics.

Assessment Method #2: Course-Embedded Assessment
Locally developed examinations for GEO 2410: Physical Geography. Required course for all Geography Majors. Multiple sections and instructors of this course. Required course for all Geography Majors. Multiple sections and instructors of this course.

In GEO 2410, 70% of students answered the embedded questions correctly. Although minimum standards were met, some students had difficulty with basic Earth/Sun relationships and factors determining climatic zonation.

Outcome 3
Outcome 3 – All Geography Majors: “Quantitative Methods for Geography.” Students will learn to use descriptive and inferential statistical techniques to collect, classify, analyze and display data about variables distributed across the worlds physical and cultural landscapes in order to make comparisons, examine relationships and look for spatial patterns and historical trends to answer questions, solve problems and make confident, ethical decisions by providing scientific evidence supporting a particular point-of-view. Students will learn to combine the use of words, numbers and images to effectively communicate their message.

Assessment Method #1: Syllabus Review
Syllabus Review. Review GEO 3301, Quantitative Methods. syllabi using SyllabusContent Checklist. This is a required course for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course, which necessitated that we review the syllabi of all instructors to ensure that the outcomes are part of the curriculum. That said, indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year; however it is certainly an important first step in assessment.


Assessment Method #2: Course-Embedded Assessment
Assessment derives from locally developed examinations for GEO 3301, which is a required course for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course.

70% of students responded correctly to embedded questions. The most frequently missed questions include, hypothesis testing and shape of distributions. 70% of students met lab assignment criteria using statistical software.

Outcome 4 – All Geography Majors: “Geo-Spatial Technologies and Mapping.” Students will acquire a working knowledge of at least one Geographic Information Science technique: Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing or Cartography. Successful completion of project-based assignment(s) becomes part of students’ professional portfolio.

Assessment Method #1: Syllabus Review
Syllabus Review. Review GEO 2426: Introduction to GIS syllabi using Syllabus Content Checklist. This is one of three options for required techniques course for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course, which necessitated that we review the syllabi of all instructors to ensure that the outcomes are part of the curriculum. That said, indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year; however it is certainly an important first step in assessment.

Outcome 4 - Method 1 - Result
All course syllabi reference at least 80% of the course topics list. We have instituted a common consistent coursesyllabus for all three lecture sections.

Outcome 4 - Method 2
AssessmentMethod #2: Course-Embedded Assessment
Assessment derives from locally developed examinations for GEO 2426. This is a required course for all Geography Majors. There are multiple sections and instructors of this course.

Outcome 4 - Method 2 - Result
70% of students answered 15 of the 20 embedded questions correctly. Most frequently missed questions include, 1) Coordinate systems; 2) topological vs non-topological; 3) data classification strategies; 4) spatial joins and themetic layer; 5) Intersect command.

Outcome 5
Outcome 5 – Program Specific: "Urban & Regional Planning – Theory and Analysis." From the geographic perspective and within the framework of the history of planning for economic growth and development in the United States, students will learn to analyze the resulting changes in land-use, transportation, and infrastructure as well as impacts on the natural environment with a special focus on regulatory constraints — such as zoning, sub-division and deed restrictions - on private property and the financing of public services and community amenities in order to synthesize balanced solutions to these complex issues while considering the major physical, legal, economic, social and ethical constraints of those solutions.

Outcome 5 - Method 1
Assessment Method #1. Syllabus Review. (A) Review GEO 4338: Land Use Planning using Syllabus Content Checklist. Required course for the Urban and Regional Planning Major (former capstone course). Multiple sections and instructors of this course. (B) Review GEO 3310: Urban Geography, GEO 3320: Community and Regional Planning, and GEO 4321: Planning Methods and Procedures. Required courses for the Urban and Regional Planning Major. Multiple sections and instructors of these courses.
Indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year.

Outcome 5 - Method 1 - Result
No data collected.

Outcome 5 - Method 2
Assessment Method #2. Course-Embedded Assessment. (A) Locally developed examinations for GEO 4338: Land Use Planning. Required course for the Urban and Regional Planning Major (former capstone course). Multiple sections and instructors of this course. (B) Locally developed examinations for GEO 3310: Urban Geography, GEO 3320: Community and Regional Planning, and GEO 4321: Planning Methods and Procedures. Required courses for the Urban and Regional Planning Major. Multiple sections and instructors of these courses.

Outcome 5 - Method 2 - Result
No data collected.

Outcome 6
Outcome 6 – Program Specific: "Urban & Regional Planning – Application." Students will learn real-world skills including land-use plan technical review, reporting on field observations of the built environment, map reading and site plan interpretation, municipal code review and analysis with specific reference to zoning and subdivision ordinances and county real estate appraisal review and analysis. Students synthesize their knowledge of the processes and participants involved in the local planning process by attending, participating and reporting on a public planning meeting.

Outcome 6 - Method 1
Assessment Method #1 (Indirect). Syllabus Review. (A) Review GEO 4338: Land Use Planning using Syllabus Content Checklist. Required course for the Urban and Regional Planning Major (former capstone course). Multiple sections and instructors of this course. (B) Review GEO 3310: Urban Geography, GEO 3320: Community and Regional Planning, and GEO 4321: Planning Methods and Procedures. Required courses for the Urban and Regional Planning Major. Multiple sections and instructors of these courses.
Indirect methods are not preferable and will be changed next year.

Outcome 6 - Method 1 - Result
All course syllabi reference at least 80% of the course topics list.

Outcome 6 - Method 2
Assessment Method #2. Course-Embedded Assessment. (A) Locally developed evaluation of out-of-class project assignments for GEO 4338: Land Use...
Use Planning (former capstone course). Required course for the Urban and Regional Planning Major. Multiple sections and instructors of this course. (B) Locally developed evaluation of out-of-class project assignments for GEO 3310: Urban Geography, GEO 3320: Community and Regional Planning, and GEO 4321: Planning Methods and Procedures. Required courses for the Urban and Regional Planning Major. Multiple sections and instructors of these courses.

**Outcome 6 - Method 2 - Result**

80 percent of students successfully completed the 100% of the assignment objectives according to a grading rubric.

Instructor Comments: 1) Students need practice inserting and formatting images into reports; 2) Students need practice properly citing references; 3) Students need practice formatting web-based resources such as on-line maps and images into their reports.

**Approval History**

**Approval History Event**

Outcomes Approved Level 1
Outcomes Approved Level 2
Results Approved Level 1
Results Approved Level 2