

Geography Assessment Plan  
Winter 2017

**Learning Goals and Objectives**

1. Exhibit a general understanding of major biophysical and social patterns in the world, and the key drivers that give rise to those patterns.
2. Identify and use geospatial techniques to analyze spatial data towards problem solving or modeling
3. Exhibit the ability to critically analyze geographic problems, ask research questions, understand methods, and conduct research
4. Demonstrate effective written, verbal, and graphic communication skills

**Assessment Methods**

Our first assessment activity focuses on Learning Goal #4: Demonstrate effective written, verbal, and graphic communication skills. The measure used to assess this goal comes from the course Geog399: The Professional Geographer. While this is not a capstone course per se, this course does bring together theory, methods, and skills that students have gathered through other geography courses and helps them synthesize these skills to see the discipline through a broader and cohesive lens. The final project in this course requires students to create an e-portfolio of work (see attached assignment). This e-portfolio is the measure that we will use for assessment of Learning Goal #4.

**Assessment Processes**

A detailed grading rubric for the e-portfolio is attached. This rubric will be used to assess Learning Goal #4 during AY 2016-2017. The other three Learning Goals will be assessed, beginning AY 2017-2018 as identified in the proposed timeline below.

Learning Objective	AY 2016-17	AY 2017-18	AY 2018-19	AY 2019-20	AY 2020-21
L01			X		X
L02		X		X	
L03		X		X	
L04	X		X		X

**Status, Outcomes and Results**

Following the assessment of the e-portfolio (Winter 2017), the department head will consult with the instructor of the course and review the extent to which this assessment method captures the objectives in Learning Goal #4. The department head will present the results of the e-portfolio assessment as well as the results of the effectiveness of the assessment to the rest of the department.

**Decisions, Plans and Recommendations**

From the e-portfolio assessment, the effectiveness assessment, and the department/faculty discussion, the department head, in consultation with the undergraduate program director and the undergraduate program coordinator, will develop a plan for improvement (if necessary) and identify the date at which the new plan will be implemented.