

When it comes to introductory concepts (human geography, physical/environmental, human-environmental interaction), the most identifiable weaknesses pertain to basic use of statistical data, and a lack of coordination among the different courses. These weaknesses will be addressed in two ways; 1) the offering of a new course that focuses directly on the application of statistical methods specific to geographical subject matter, and 2) the restructuring and re-evaluating of the entire geography curricula (scheduled for 2024-2025).

**Goal 1 (BS). Train students to have a strong foundation in core Geography concepts**

**Goal Description:**

Geography students will learn basic skills and competencies relevant to a well-rounded geographic education

**Providing Department:** Geography BS

**Progress:** Completed

**RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS** -----

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**Proficiency with First-Year Foundational Concepts (Supports Goal 1a)**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will demonstrate proficiency in First-Year Foundational Geographic Concepts

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**Foundational Concepts (Supports Learning Obj. 1a)**

**Indicator Description:**

Questions pertaining to the use of introductory concepts were embedded in exams for geography courses (GEOG 1300, 1401, 3301, & 3350)

**Criterion Description:**

The average score will be 70% on questions pertaining to introductory geography concepts

**Findings Description:**

Students enrolled in GEOG 1300 averaged 64% in on a series of questions embedded in exams that pertained to introductory concepts in geography. Those enrolled in GEOG 1401 averaged 60% on similar questions. Students enrolled in 3350 & 3301 scored 71% and 72%, respectively, on questions pertaining to introductory concepts. The results from all four courses (1300, 1401, 3301 & 3350) were all lower than what were realized from the previous assessment. No data was available from GEOG 4356 since the course was not offered.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Action to improve Foundational Concepts (Supports Foundational Concepts Learning Obj. 1a)**

**Action Description:**

This indicator would support previous identified weaknesses with student outcomes: notable inabilities to work with maps, graphs & the interpretation of basic statistical data. Results from this assessment suggest that student learning in these areas in more efficient in smaller classes/labs. Accordingly, we will increasingly focus on these subject matter in lab sections (per GEOG 1401), and in breakout focus groups in courses that do not incorporate distinct lab components. Basic map skills will also be incorporated in geotechnical courses (all majors are now required to complete GEOG 2464).

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**Proficiency with Global and Geographical Awareness (Supports Goal 1b)**

**Learning Objective Description:**