Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods

PhD Plan 2019-20

Program (CAS) - GEOG - Geography (PhD) - 438

Program Mission Statement: The Ph.D. program in Geography specialize in three broad areas including nature-society dynamics, cultural-historical geography, and geographic information science including unmanned aerial systems (UAS). This degree program is designed for students to master the theoretical knowledge and skills to design, implement, and present original geographic research in oral and written form. Therefore, doctoral students study geographic research methods and analysis, the history and philosophies of geography, and knowledge of current geographic research.

Outcome: Effective Communications

PhD students will develop the ability to communicate geographic information effectively orally and in writing.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Analysis of Written Artifacts - All students undergoing a defense of some sort are assessed on their writing skills by all committee members (typically four or five on a PhD committee). Rubrics are distributed to the committee members before the defense and are usually collected afterwards, although some faculty members return them later.

Also, all instructors of graduate-level courses are requested to provide all Geography student papers from one of their assignments, usually a term paper or project, for evaluation by paid summer artifact readers. These readers have both assessed artifacts in the past, and were given general instructions on the assessment of the artifacts. Instructors were not aware of any identifying student information, including level (MS or PhD), to avoid bias, although the readers were also contributors of some artifacts so likely recognized their courses and their students via their writing. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
Timeline for Assessment: Each Semester
Related Documents:
E written communication skills rubric final.docx

Oral Presentation - All students undergoing a defense of some sort are assessed on their oral presentation skills by all committee members (typically four or five on a PhD committee). Rubrics are distributed to the committee members before the defense and are usually collected afterwards, although some faculty members return them later. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 2.2 or better (on a 3.0 scale).
Related Documents:
J oral communication skills rubric.docx

Outcome: Geographic Knowledge

PhD students will develop apposite knowledge in geographic literature and research.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020

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Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Course Embedded Assignments - Instructors of the respective courses assess their students on rubrics specific to the course, designed by them (5403 – Rubric B, 5413 – Rubric C; see departmental Graduate Assessment Plan). Instructors are provided with a copy of the rubric and instructions early in the semester, and are left to complete it at their leisure (either as the semester progresses or at the end) but are urged to separate student grades from achievements of specific benchmarks as indicated on the rubric. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
Timeline for Assessment: Yearly
Related Documents:
B 5403 rubric.doc
C 5413 Rubric.doc

Outcome: Geographic Skills

PhD students will develop skills in tools for geographic data collection and methods of analysis.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Course Embedded Assignments - Instructors of the respective courses assess their students on rubrics specific to the course, designed by them (5303 – Rubric A, 6313 – Rubric D; see departmental Graduate Assessment Plan). Instructors are provided with a copy of the rubric and instructions early in the semester, and are left to complete it at their leisure (either as the semester progresses or at the end) but are urged to separate student grades from achievements of specific benchmarks as indicated on the rubric. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
Timeline for Assessment: Yearly for GEOG 5303
Every other year for GEOG 6313
Related Documents:
A 5303 Rubric.doc
D 6313 Rubric.doc

Outcome: Geographic Research

PhD students will develop geographic dissertations that marshal evidence, analyze data, and synthesize meaningful conclusions.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Outcome Type: Skills

Assessment Methods

Review of Thesis/Dissertation/Creative Component - All students undergoing a final defense are assessed on their research and writing skills by all committee members (typically four or five faculty members on a PhD committee). Rubrics are distributed to the committee members at the beginning of the defense and are usually collected afterwards, although some faculty members return them later. (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
Timeline for Assessment: Each Semester

Program (CAS) - GEOG - Geography (PhD) - 438

Related Documents:
[I PhD research skills rubric_final 2010.docx](#)

Outcome: Specialty Areas

PhD students will be able to identify and discuss significant geographic trends within their (three) chosen specialty areas of geography.

Outcome Status: Active
Planned Assessment Year: 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018, 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020
Start Date: 05/12/2019
Outcome Type: Knowledge

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - All doctoral students taking comprehensive exams are assessed with Rubric H (Active)

* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark: Students will average 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
Timeline for Assessment: Every semester
Related Documents:
[H phd specialty area knowledge rubric.docx](#)