Minor in Geography

Program Mission Statement

The Department of Economics and Geography is committed to the delivery of exceptional undergraduate and graduate instruction by faculty members who are both actively engaged in scholarly activities and capable of integrating the results of their research into their instructional activities. Our intent is that this instruction will emphasize our role in guiding students to prepare them to be intellectual resources that will continually redevelop to serve many organizations over a productive career. Students are expected to take a selection of courses in cultural geography, economic geography, and geographic information systems (GIS) that provide the foundation of the ability to undertake spatial (geographic) analysis. The minor will serve as a complement to the Economics major, other majors in the Coggin College of Business, the International Studies major and other majors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

Content/Discipline-Specific Knowledge/Skills

• perform at an adequate level through analysis of the following themes: Human-Environment interaction; Spatial distribution of human activities; recognition and understanding of spatial patterns and processes.

Communication Skills

• make basic oral presentations discussing spatial (geographic) issues and their effects on society. These presentations should reflect the students’ understanding of geographic information and models taught in class.
• write basic reports analyzing spatial (geographic) information and provide adequate quality analysis of these issues.

Critical Thinking Skills

• demonstrate the ability to think critically to identify spatial problems, and propose alternatives to these problems and implement solutions based on spatial (geographic) information.

Assessment Approaches

Written communication will be assessed by student performance on short papers assigned in Economic Geography (GEO 3502) or Cultural Dimensions of Economic Geography (GEO 3553). We developed a rubric to assess these on a point scale synonymous with the written communication rubric employed by the College (CCB).

Oral communication will be assessed by student performance while delivering an individual speech presentation in Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS 3043). We will use a rubric with 9 different assessment categories for oral presentations based on a rubric accepted by the College.

Content knowledge will be assessed by student performance in a final project in Introduction to GIS (GIS 3043). The project will use specific GIS software and data and will be assessed using a rubric.

Critical thinking will be assessed in either GEO 3503 (Economic Geography) of GEO 3553 (Cultural Dimensions of Economic Geography) by a series of written assignments addressing spatial (geographic) issues given throughout the semester.