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

- Students in the geography minor should be able to perform at an adequate level in the following three skills:
  1. Human-Environment interaction: Students should understand how humans interact with the environment and how the environment affects human activities.
  2. Spatial distribution of human activities through time: Students should be able to explain how human activities are spatially distributed over time.
  3. Recognition and understanding of spatial patterns and processes: Students should be able to use geographic information and use this information to detect spatial patterns to inform human activity.

Communication Skills

- Students will be able to make basic oral presentations discussing geography issues and their effects on society. These presentations should reflect the students' understanding of geographic information and models taught in class.
- Geography minors should be able to write basic reports analyzing geographical information and providing adequate quality analysis of different geography related issues.

Critical Thinking Skills

- Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically to identify problems, and propose alternatives to these problems and implement solutions based on geographic information.

Assessment Approaches

Written communication (objective 1, number 1) will be assessed by student performance on short papers assigned in Economic Geography (GEO 3502). We developed a rubric to assess these on a 6 point scale synonymous with the rubric employed by CCB. The chairperson will keep records of performance beginning with fall 2012.

Oral communication (objective 1, number 2) will be assessed by student performance while delivering an individual speech during our class Cultural Dimension of Economic Geography GEO 3553. We will use a rubric with 9 different assessment categories for oral presentations. The chairperson will keep records of performance beginning with fall 2012.

Content knowledge (objective 2) will be assessed by student performance on the following courses: Natural Resources (GEO 3372), Economic Geography (GEO 3502) and Introduction to GIS (GIS 3043). The chairperson will keep records of performance and employ those data to infer both time series and cross-sectional comparisons.

Critical thinking (objective 3) will be tested at the class Introduction to GIS (GIS 3043). The chairperson will keep records of performance and employ those data to infer both time series and cross-sectional comparisons.

Additional assessment approaches are in development, and those noted above are subject to revision as deemed appropriate.