### Undergraduate Degree Program

**Geography - BA**

#### Mission Statement

The mission of the department is to graduate well-trained professionals in the field of Geography by providing a quality education in the field. Students will gain theoretical and applied skills that a wide range of employers find attractive. Students will also be prepared for graduate education in the social sciences, physical sciences, engineering, business, or the arts.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

FIU Geography - BA graduates should be able to achieve the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates will demonstrate competency in subject knowledge of geography.</td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Majors complete SYG 4972 - Senior Capstone Seminar, in which they conduct a research project and present the project in written form. Capstone Seminar Papers are read and scored on a 5 point rating scale by a two faculty panel using the seven "Disciplinary Measures," the four CAS "Written Communication" and four CAS "Critical Thinking measures." A minimum of ten papers will be selected each semester. Papers from graduating seniors will be selected first, then others in the course to complete a total of ten. Senior Capstone Presentations will be viewed by a panel of at least three faculty in attendance and scored with a 5 point rating scale addressing the seven "Disciplinary Measures" and the CAS Technology Literacy measure. All Capstone Presentations will be scored by the faculty in attendance. The seven "Disciplinary Measures" (and summarized with Overall Quality measure) are:

1. Introduction clearly states the primary topic, research question, or hypothesis.
2. Properly uses key concepts and theoretical approaches
3. Identifies primary academic sources and publications
4. Uses appropriate research methods
5. Demonstrates proficiency in appropriate information technologies.
6. Clearly presents analysis of research data.
7. Conclusion succinctly summarizes findings or recommendations

**Sampling:**

There will be a sample of a minimum of 10 papers or 10%, whichever is greater, from the Capstone Course, seniors are selected first.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**

75% receive a 3 or better in Overall Quality
75% receive a 3 or better on the use of key concepts theoretical approaches
75% receive a 3 or better on the appropriate use of research methods

**Technology Integration:**

**Procedure:**
Graduates will demonstrate competency in using technology to present ideas by using PowerPoint and other multimedia tools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Thinking Skills</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates will demonstrate competency in critical thinking in the area of geography.</td>
<td>This outcome will not be implemented until AY 2016-2017. An assessment method is currently being developed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Direct Measures**

**Procedure:**
Majors complete SYG 4972 - Senior Capstone Seminar, in which they conduct a research project and present it in written form. A minimum of ten papers will be selected each semester. Papers from graduating seniors will be selected first, then others in the course to complete a total of ten. A panel of two faculty will read and score the papers on a 5 point rating scale using the four CAS “Critical Thinking measures” and rubrics:
- Identifies & summarizes the problem/question
- Analyzes & examines
- Assesses the influence of context
- Constructs & interprets

**Sampling:**
A minimum of 10 papers or 10%, whichever is greater, will be selected each semester.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
On the 5 point scale, 75% of the students will receive a 3 or better on the four critical thinking measures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduates will demonstrate effective oral communication skills in the area of geography.</td>
<td><strong>Procedure:</strong> Majors complete SYG 4972 - Senior Capstone Seminar, in which they conduct a research project and present it in written form. A minimum of ten papers will be selected each semester. Papers from graduating seniors will be selected first, then others in the course to complete a total of ten. A panel of two faculty will read and score the paper on a 5 point rating scale using the four CAS &quot;Written Communication Skills.&quot; - Content &amp; development - Organization - Language - Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sampling:</strong></td>
<td>A minimum of 10 papers or 10%, whichever is greater, will be selected each semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Criteria for Success:</strong></td>
<td>On the 5 point scale, 75% of the students will receive a 3 or better on the four Oral Communications Skills measures.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Graduates will demonstrate effective written communication skills in the area of geography. | **Procedure:** Procedure: Majors complete SYG 4972 - Senior Capstone Seminar, in which they conduct a research project and present it in written form. A minimum of ten papers will be selected each semester. Papers from graduating seniors will be selected first, then others in the course to complete a total of ten. A panel of two faculty will read and score the paper on a 5 point rating scale using the four CAS "Written Communication Skills." - Content & development - Organization - Language - Conventions |
| **Sampling:** | |

- Content & development
- Organization
- Language
- Conventions
A minimum of 10 papers or 10%, whichever is greater, will be selected each semester.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
On the 5 point scale, 75% of the students will receive a 3 or better on the four Written Communications Skills measures.