Learning Outcomes Data for the Senate Committee on Instructional Program Priorities

Program: Geography Minor

Department: Geography

Number of students enrolled in the program in Fall, 2011: 11

Faculty member completing template: Robin Datel, Chair (Date: January 2012)

The Geography Department has not yet created Learning Outcomes for the geography minor. Several existing learning outcomes for the major are appropriate for the minor, although they will require some modification, including consideration of different levels of expected achievement for minors than for majors. Different program assessment tools will have to be created as well, as geography minors do not take GEOG 190, the capstone senior research seminar in geography, our single most important assessment tool for majors. An appropriate alternative to the senior research project may be to have geography minors put together a portfolio of work from their geography courses, accompanied by a reflective piece on how various assignments and exams in those courses demonstrate their performance on the learning outcomes for the minor. The geography faculty will also have to consider whether to administer our baseline knowledge quiz to minors.

The department has been prompted by this request for data on learning outcomes for the geography minor to put development of these on the agenda for this year’s faculty retreat.