2013-2014 Assessment Report
Program: Geography, BA

College of Sciences & Mathematics
Geology & Geography
Geography, BA

Expected Outcome 1: Beyond Alabama

Students will graduate with broad knowledge of the cultural and environmental features of the world beyond Alabama. There are five sections on the exit examination dealing with cultural and environment. One section concentrates on human and cultural geography, one section focuses on physical and environmental geography, and one section on current events about global issues.

Assessment Method 1: Exit Examination

Assessment Method Description

An exit examination is administered to graduating seniors willing to participate at the end of their semester of graduation. Students are asked to complete the exit exam within one hour. During Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 a total of eight students took the assessment exam for the Geography BA degree. For the goal of Beyond Alabama we used the current affairs sections of the exit exam for evaluation. See Appendix A for Geography Exit Exam and Survey.

Findings

It is the goal of the Department that 80% of students will score 70% or better on the current affairs section. 100% of students scored 70% or better with an average score of 80%. See Appendix B on pp. 14-30 for a detailed report on Geography Exit Exam.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Faculty will discuss Current Affairs at the beginning of the terms to make sure we are in agreement which current affair example we agree to highlight in our curriculum to explain geography concepts.
Expected Outcome 2: Body of Knowledge

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Geography will graduate with a body of knowledge and skills appropriate to a comprehensive geographical education. This body of knowledge includes basic concepts of human and physical geography, as well as the geographic methods that assist in practicing applied geography.

Assessment Method 1: Exit Examination

Assessment Method Description

An exit examination is administered to graduating seniors willing to participate at the end of their semester of graduation. Students are asked to complete the exit exam within one hour. During Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 a total of eight students took the assessment exam for the Geography BA degree. For the goal of overall Body of Knowledge four sections of the exam were evaluated including cultural, physical, remote sensing, and geographic information systems. See Appendix A for Geography Exit Exam and Survey.

Findings

The Department Goal is that students will answer 70% or higher correctly on the four Body of Knowledge sections of the examination and no more than 20% of the questions will be scored less than 50%. Of the students who took the exam 73% of the questions were scored correctly or better on the human geography section and one question out of ten was scored as less than 50% correct. For the physical geography section 73% of the answers were correct and ten percent of the questions had a score of less than 50%. On the remote sensing section 90% of the questions were answered correctly and no questions received less than a 50% score. The GIS portion of the exam had 88% answered correctly and 10% (1 question) where less than 50% were answered correctly. See Appendix B on pp. 14-30 for a detailed report on Geography Exit Exam.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Both the cultural section and the physical section had unsatisfactory student outcomes that were identified, and the professors involved in these areas examined the questions missed. These were categorized into the types of learning involved; for example whether problem areas involved concepts, recalling specifics, etc. These findings were used to modify the corresponding parts of classroom instruction.
Expected Outcome 3: Employment/Graduate School

Students who complete the Geography Program will be monitored to see whether the student found professional employment in a geographical field or pursued graduate school.

Assessment Method 1: Status Report

Assessment Method Description

Geography majors will be tracked after graduation. Part of the exit exam will include a survey asking if the student obtained employment and if so, is the job in a geographically related field. In addition, Auburn University administers an exit survey, which also asks about employment or graduate school. See Appendix A for Geography Exit Exam and Survey.

Findings

From the exit survey administered in the department we have information that four students have found employment and one student went on to graduate school in Geography or related field. According to the Auburn University exit survey, out of the eight students that took the survey (two in the Fall and six in the Spring), two had found a job either directly or indirectly related to geography and one was headed to graduate school. See Appendix B on pp. 14-30 for a detailed report on Geography Exit Exam and Survey.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Discussion has centered on better ways of tracking our alumni including use of social Networking Web sites.