

Framingham State University

Program Assessment Plan for Geography Major 2017-2022

Assessment Coordinator:	Dr. Judith Otto, Associate Professor, jotto@framingham.edu
Department Chair:	Dr. Judith Otto, Associate Professor, jotto@framingham.edu
Date Created/Updated:	Draft May 2017; ongoing refinements in AY17-18

1) PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Geography Department is to equip students to explore geography as the science of place and space; to examine geographical issues and problems by framing their inquiries using critical thinking and the theoretical tools and methodologies of the discipline; to apply their knowledge of the relationships between the environment and society to benefit both; to embrace their role as local and global citizens; and to engage in lifelong learning. Through experiential, laboratory, fieldwork, seminar, and capstone learning opportunities, the Department prepares students for graduate study and advanced degrees, and for a variety of professional careers in fields related to geography, environmental and urban planning, geographical information systems (GIS), and education.

2) PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES

All geography students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast world regions with respect to their environmental, political, economic or cultural systems.
2. Explain the geographical basis of environmental, political, economic, or social problems at local, national, and global scales.
3. Use the principles of spatial analysis to explain geographical questions or solve geographical problems.

Global studies concentrators (UGYG) will be able to:

4. Critically analyze global environmental, developmental, inequality, interconnectivity, and governance issues using theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence.

GIS concentrators (UGYA) will be able to:

5. Apply GIS principles and techniques, both theoretical and applied, to manage and solve geographical and non-geographical problems, by using their knowledge of the principles of spatial data management in a GIS.

Coordinate majors in Elementary or Early Education (UGYL) will be able to:

???

3) **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Curriculum Map - Geography Department Assessment Plan 2017-2022						
Course #	Name	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4 (GYG only)	PLO 5 (GYA only)
Core Sequence - All majors						
101	Intro to Hu Geog		I	I	I	
110	World Reg Geog	I	I		I	
203	Physical Geog	I	I			
216	Intro to GIS			I		I
Required for GYG						
250-291	3 regional courses	P, D	P, D	P, D		
165	Global Cities	P		P		
212	Persp on Global Envir	P	P	P	P	
222	Globalization	P	P	P	P	
460	Global Devt Theories				P, D	
	4 restricted electives					
Required for GYA						
250-291	2 regional courses	P, D	P, D	P, D		
214	Spatial Analysis			P		P
316	Advanced GIS			P		P
328	Remote Sensing			P		P
486	GIS Capstone			P		P, D
Required for GYL						
250-291	2 regional courses	P, D	P, D	P, D		
250 or 251	US and Canada or New England			I,P		
201	Econ Geog	P	P	P		
206	Political Geog	P	P			
211	Cultural Geog	P	P			
KEY						
I = introduce						
P = practice						
D = demonstrate (assessment here)						

4) ASSESSMENT WORK PLAN

AY2017-18: Refine and come to consensus on mission statement (introduced at March 2017 departmental meeting; discussed at April 2017 meeting with subsequent emailed amendments); review and refine program learning objectives for the three concentrations; review and refine the curriculum map; write rubric and identify assignment prompts for PLO 1.

AY2018-19: Assess PLO 1; write rubric and identify assignment prompts for PLO 2.

AY2019-20: Assess PLO 2; write rubric and identify assignment prompts for PLO 3.

AY2020-21: Assess PLO 3; write rubric and identify assignment prompts for PLO 4 and PLO 5.

AY2021-22: Assess PLO 4 and 5; review findings and adjust curriculum to reflect findings.

5) ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TIMELINE

Indicate when and how program learning objectives will be assessed. Refer to the curriculum map to draft a student learning objective assessment timeline. It is recommended that you outline a 5-year plan for assessment in which you will assess all of your PLOs.

Academic Years	Objectives(s)	Course(s)	Assessment Evidence (direct/indirect)	Assessment Method	Responsibility
WHEN	WHICH Objectives(s) will you examine in each period (Use number)?	WHERE will you look for evidence of student learning (i.e., list course(s) that will generate evidence for each objective.	WHAT student work or other evidence will you examine in order to assess each objective?	HOW will you look at the evidence; what means will you use to analyze the evidence collected for each objective	WHO will oversee collecting, analyzing, reporting, results? List names or titles.
Year 1 2017-2018	See above work plan				
Year 2 2018-2019	PLO 1	Regional courses GEOG 250-291 (depends on course offerings)	Mid-term and final exam essay questions	Score against rubric	Geog faculty

Year 3 2019-2020	PLO 2	Regional courses GEOG 250-291 (depends on course offerings)	Mid-term and final exam essay questions	Score against rubric	Geog faculty
Year 4 2020-2021	PLO 3	Regional courses GEOG 250-291 (depends on course offerings)	Mid-term and final exam essay questions	Score against rubric	Geog faculty
Year 5 2021-2022	PLO 4 and 5	PLO 4: GEOG460 PLO 5: GEOG486	Final projects	Score against rubric	Geog faculty

Program Size and Sampling Technique

- a. State the number of students in the program or the number who graduate each year.
Variable number of majors and graduates: graduates were as follows: 2013, 19; 2014, 28; 2015, 21; 2016, 39.

- b. Describe the sampling technique to be used.
For PLOs 1-3, 10 artifacts will be selected at random from each section of a regional geography course.
For PLOs 4 and 5: all final projects in the respective courses will comprise the sample.

6) PLAN FOR ANALYZING RESULTS

- List who is responsible for distributing results and who will receive results?
Assessment coordinator will distribute results to all departmental faculty members.

- State how and at which forums discussion of results will take place.
Regular updates on assessment progress will be provided at monthly departmental meetings. One meeting each year will be designated specifically for discussion of results and formulation of curricular strategies in response to results, logically scheduled following collection and analysis of data.

7) **DISTRIBUTION.** The program will distribute or publish these items in the following ways:

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>Distribution Method</i>					
	FSU Catalog (provide section title)	Website (provide URL)	Annual Reports	Brochures	Course Syllabi	Other (please describe, e.g. department meeting, advising session)
Program Mission	no	yes	yes	Maybe	Maybe	Dept meetings, bulletin boards
Program Learning Objectives	no	yes	yes	no	As relevant	Dept meetings, bulletin boards
Learning Opportunities (Curriculum Map)	no	no	yes	no	No	
Assessment Plan	No	Office of Assessment website	Yes	No	No	

Attach any rubrics or instrumentation that you plan to use for assessment of Program Learning Objectives

Rubrics will be developed beginning in AY2017-18.

¹ If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Mark Nicholas, Director of Assessment at mnicholas1@framingham.edu or 508-626-4670

² Accredited programs can provide supplemental documents that indicate the answers to these questions as long as specific page references are provided in each cell of the tables in this form. When the answers are not accessible in that way, please cut and paste into your assessment plan.

Credits: This Template was developed using ideas from templates developed at University of Rhode Island and University of Hawaii in Manoa.