

Geography, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

The goal is for geography graduates to demonstrate spatial literacy, systems thinking, critical thinking, research proficiency, and communications skills.

Spatial Literacy

Students will understand the role of spatial information and data in addressing social and environmental questions. They will be aware of the role of geography as a linchpin discipline that bridges social and biophysical sciences.

Systems Thinking

Students will acquire an understanding of the connections and relationships between human and environmental activities and outcomes across space and time, be able to apply spatial analytical techniques to investigate human/environment interaction, and identify the ethical implications associated with outcomes produced by such analyses. This understanding and ability will provide students with the necessary tools to assess the sustainability of current and proposed solutions in a variety of settings across a broad spectrum of social and environmental issues.

Critical Thinking

Students will have the capability to assess various points of view and perspectives while assessing complex social and environmental problems, to evaluate the factual basis of assertions, and to understand trade-offs.

Research Proficiency

Students will be able to formulate testable hypotheses, apply quantitative or qualitative approaches and methodological tools to pertinent questions, and acquire secondary data or construct primary data sets when applicable.

Communication Skills

Students will be able to communicate complex geographical and technical concepts using an appropriate vocabulary to a broad spectrum of audiences. Communication skills include verbal, written, graphic, and cartographic forms of communication.