1-1-2015

Academic Learning Compact : Geography [Effective 2015]

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

Academic Learning Compacts

Bachelor of Arts in Geography

Academic Year: Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Due: May 20, 2016

Academic Program-linked College Mission-based Goals/Objectives

In the matrix on the following page, please place an X in the grid that identifies the degree program goals and objectives that align with the institutional mission-based goals/objectives and the College based goals/objectives. These goals/objectives need to be documented in your ALC data.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG GOALS & OBJECTIVES		COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES GOALS & OBJECTIVES	*UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS*											
			Anthropology	Biology	Criminology	Literature & Writing	Environmental Science (BA)	Graphic Design	Political Science	Psychology	History	I.S.S.	journalism (BA)	World Languages
Academic Performance	Use sustained evidence of SLO's and student achievement for continuous improvement	Initiate and expand graduate programs and develop formal academic ties to other graduate programs within the USF system					x							
	Offer certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs that meet regional needs						x							
	Implement and support information and instructional technologies that facilitate effective pedagogies						x							
	Enhance programs that specifically support academic excellence						x							
	Increase student awareness of participating in a global society						x							
Student Engagement	Create a freshman experience that enables students to thrive and move successfully through to graduation	Our students will have critical skills and a broad outlook that will make them engaged and productive citizens Incorporate civic engagement, service learning, and experiential learning into their classes, when appropriate												
	Foster institutional pride and strengthen connections within the campus community													
	Enhance opportunities for increased student involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities						X							
Diversity & Inclusion	Insure an inclusive community where differences are respected and valued	Cultivate a vigorous liberal arts culture by recruiting talented diverse students, maintaining small class sizes, and mentoring those students we have. Encourage free discussion, foster critical thinking, demand that our students write, and work across disciplines					X							
	Attract and retain a diverse student population													
	Increase the diversity of faculty and staff													
Research & Creative Activities	Create a vibrant culture of faculty research and creative scholarship	Make significant and meaningful contributions to ongoing dialogues in our academic fields. We expect our undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research in collaboration with faculty												
	Promote and support undergraduate research as a meaningful aspect of campus life						X							
	Enhance and support research and scholarly collaborations with community partners						X							

Signature Page for Academic Program

Academic Program: Geography, ESPG

Chair/Coordinator: Drs. Barnali Dixon and Rebecca Johns Date:

Summary Statement – Academic Program Performance in Fall 2015- Spring 2016

Provide a summary statement about academic program performance over the previous year including high points and low points

The new geography major was approved and appeared in the catalog in August of 2014. There was no time for recruitment efforts prior to the start of the 2014-2015 academic year, hence the number of majors is at 5. We fully expect this number to rise as the department develops recruitment materials and activities.

With only a few geography majors enrolled in the geography courses used for assessment this past year, assessments were not calculated. We have, however, put together a beginning Academic Learning Compact to apply as we move into the 2015-2016 academic year. Given that this is the first ACL, we fully expect to modify it in the future.

Summary Statement – Impact of Changes Made in Fall 2015- Spring 2016

Provide a summary statement about the changes that were made in your program resulting from the ALC's in the preceding Academic Year. Include both the high points and low points

As indicated above, this is our first Academic Learning Compact for the Geography major. Since no assessments were completed last year, we will apply this rubric for the 2015-2016 year, and expect to make changes at the end of the academic year in response to our first set of data.

Mission of Academic Program (include URL):

The degree core focuses on physical geography and environmental systems including the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. Particular emphasis is placed on the human modification of the natural environment and the global interconnections of the major earth systems. Electives for the degree program focuses on human geography (where the social and spatial effects of the growth of cities, including issues such as the conflicts, economic restructuring, the growth and decline of inner-cities, and urban racial and ethnic relations and disease are discussed) and physical geography (where land-use changes and impacts of urbanization on water resources qualities and quantities are discussed). Geospatial Science concentration focuses on the quantitative and analytical study of relationships of events and processes in space and time. In recent years, powerful new technologies and techniques have emerged that greatly improve our ability to acquire, archive, analyze and communicate information regarding people, places and other processes on or near the Earth's surface. These same technologies and analytical frameworks allow us to combine this information into multi-tiered databases describing complex and inter-related aspects of our physical and social world. Students will learn these technologies and analytical framework. Environment and Society concentration provides students with an in-depth understanding of the socio-cultural and political contexts in which specific environmental problems arise and are addressed. Popular conceptual frameworks in human-environment interaction, such as political ecology, sustainable development, and natural hazards, are applied to a range of environmental problems at the local, national and global scales.

http://www.usfsp.edu/espg/b-a-in-geography/

List Program Goal(s) / Objective(s):

Content/Disciplinary Knowledge:

Geography students will demonstrate knowledge of one of the world regions through analysis of examples of those regions/countries' historical or contemporary social, political, economic, environmental, and/or cultural life.

Geography students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the contributions of the major writers and thinkers in environmental thought from within geography, environmental history, philosophy and the other social sciences.

Geography students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the spatial and temporal variations in conceptualization of the human-environment relationship.

Geography students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.

Geography students will demonstrate understanding of the design and purpose of qualitative research methods in the social sciences.

Geography students will demonstrate an understanding of techniques by which geographic features are referenced on the earth and the methods by which they can be represented digitally for mapping and analysis purposes.

Geography students will demonstrate knowledge of a widely-used mapping/GIS software application.

Geography students will demonstrate mastery of the fundamental principles of cartography, map design, and production.

Communication Skills:

Geography students will demonstrate their ability to present their ideas and research orally.

Geography students will demonstrate a high level of written communication skills through a variety of analytic writing assignments.

Geography students will communicate in writing the examination of scientific observations, hypotheses or models, to include quantitative analyses and relevance to societal issues.

Critical Thinking Skills:

Geography students will demonstrate the ability to summarize and discuss the critical theories and concepts within the field of environmental thought.

Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically deconstruct a variety of representations of nature and the human-nature relationship from within the canon of environmental thought.

Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and the use of scientific method to explain the natural world.

Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the role played by factors such as race, age, gender, ethnicity, economic status, environment, etc., in influencing human social interaction

Civic Engagement:

Geography students will engage in the community through experiential learning through the design and participation of a field based research project.

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

Program Goals / Objectives must be mapped to College Goals / Objectives – use consistent nomenclature.
[Please note impact of any changes that were made as a result of 2009-10 assessment]

ALCs must address student learning in four areas: 1. Content/Discipline Skills; 2. Communication Skills; Critical Thinking Skills; and 4. Civic Engagement.

1. Content/Discipline Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Geography students will demonstrate knowledge of one of the world regions through analysis of examples of those regions/countries' historical or contemporary social, political, economic, environmental, and/or cultural life.	GEA 2000 World Regional Geography. Students write a series of short analyses of contemporary geographic issues related to each of the ten world regions.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on Chapter 1 Discussion Post; and Chapter 8 Discussion Post.	27/96 (28%) failed to meet the standard of a score of 80% on the discussion board assignments. 72% of students met the standard. This is slightly lower than the target of 80% meeting the standard.	SLOs for this course are changing as of August, 2015, in accordance with the new general education requirements. ALC will be updated once the new SLOs are added and edited.
Students will demonstrate an understanding of techniques by which geographic features are referenced on the earth and the methods by which they can be represented digitally for mapping and analysis purposes.	GIS 3006 Introduction to Computer Cartography: will be assessed via (a) term project that requires synthesis and integration of GIS concepts tools and thinking and (b) the Midterm II.	(a) 65% of GPY students will earn 80% or higher on their term project. (b) 75% of GPY majors will earn a minimum of 85% in the relevant questions in Midterm II.	N/A - No Geography students were enrolled in course.	N/A
Geography students will	ISS 3930 Qualitative	80% of students will	63% (5 out of 8	This criterion will be

demonstrate understanding of the design and purpose of qualitative research methods in the social sciences	Research Methods. Students design and complete an independent research project.	receive a score of 80% or higher on the paper	students) earned an 80% or higher on their papers (it appears as though the other 3 students may have dropped the course.	kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the contributions of the major writers and thinkers in environmental thought from within geography, environmental history, philosophy and the other social sciences.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students take a midterm exam and a final exam	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on both exams	Findings: 66% of students met this target on the Final Exam. One student received a D, and two students received high C grades on the final. There were 5 A's and two 100% scores. The variation reflects the difficulty of the material and the range of preparedness with which students approach the course. For the Midterm exam, the results were similar, with 33% (3 out of 9) not achieving this target	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the spatial and temporal variations in conceptualization of the human-environment relationship.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students write weekly reflection papers evaluating varying perspectives on nature. One reflection deals specifically with representations of nature in the Global South.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the reflection paper.	Only 55% of students met this standard. Clearly work needs to be done to either improve the analytical writing of students before they become seniors, or the course needs to spend more time teaching analytical writing (not likely).	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will successfully	GEO 2200 Physical	80% of students will	13/57 (23%) of students	This criterion will be

recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.	Geography students take a comprehensive final exam.	score 80% or higher on the final exam.	scored at least 80% on the final exam.	kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will demonstrate mastery of the fundamental principles of cartography, map design, and production;	GIS 3006 Intro to Computer Cartography. will be assessed via (a) term project that requires map composition as a final product	85% of GPY majors will earn a minimum of 85% in the relevant section of the Term Project that measures map composition skills	N/A - No Geography students were enrolled in course.	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will demonstrate knowledge of a widely-used mapping/GIS software application.	GIS 3006 Intro to Computer Cartography – will be assessed by the lab exercises.	80% of the GPY majors will earn a minimum of 75% in key lab exercises that are designed to test software proficiency	N/A - No Geography students were enrolled in course.	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

2. Communication Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Students will demonstrate their ability to present their ideas and research orally.	ISS 3930 Qualitative Research Methods. Students present their final research to the class in a formal presentation. GEO 4379 Geography of Environment.	80% of the students will achieve a score of at least 80% on each of these presentations. 80% of the students will achieve a score of at	63% (5 out of 8 students) earned an 80% or higher on their presentations (it appears as though the other 3 students may have dropped the course. 100% of students met	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

	Students present the results of their film analysis and their found object analysis orally.	least 80% on each of these presentations	this target.	
Students will demonstrate a high level of written communication skills through a variety of analytic writing assignments.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students write two short papers of 5 to 8 pages. One analyzes the representation of nature in a film; the second analyzes a representation of nature in a found object.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on both papers.	Findings: 78% of students met this target, with the majority of students doing very well. This indicates that the paper format was easier or more understandable to the students than the weekly reflection paper	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will communicate in writing the examination of scientific observations, hypotheses or models, to include quantitative analyses and relevance to societal issues	GEO 2200 Physical Geography: students complete a final research paper.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the paper.	Two assignments were given in which students analyzed climate data and communicated the results in writing. They reached the benchmark in both cases (93% and 90% scored >80%)	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

3. Critical Thinking Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Students will demonstrate the ability to summarize and discuss the critical theories and concepts within the field of environmental thought.	GEO 4379 Geography of the Environment students take a comprehensive final exam which includes a substantial essay in which students bring various sources from the field into conversation.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the final exam.	Findings: 66% of students met this target. One student received a D, and two students received high C grades on the final. There were 5 A's and two 100% scores. The variation reflects the difficulty of	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

			the material and the range of preparedness with which students approach the course.	
Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the role played by factors such as race, age, gender, ethnicity, economic status, environment, etc., in influencing human social interaction	GEA 2000 World Regional Geography. Students take an exam on fundamental social processes and geographic concepts and theories (Chapter 1).	80% of students will earn 80% on the Chapter 1 exam.	91 out of 96 students received a score of 75% or higher on this quiz. 95% of students met the target. The average score on this quiz was 87%.	SLOs for this course are changing as of August, 2015, in accordance with the new general education requirements. ALC will be updated once the new SLOs are added and edited.
Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically deconstruct a variety of representations of nature and the human-nature relationship from within the canon of environmental thought.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students in this course write a short paper deconstructing the representation of nature in a found object. This analysis is done within the framework of the canon.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the essay.	100% of students met this target.	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.
Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and the use of scientific method to explain the natural world.	GEO 2200 Physical Geography take a comprehensive final exam.	80% of students will score 80% or higher on the final exam.	13 of 57 students (23%) reached the benchmark.	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

4. Civic Engagement:				
Goals/Objectives	**Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence***	**Criteria for Success**	**Findings**	**Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2016 – Spring 2017**
Geography students will engage in the community through experiential learning through the design and participation of a field based research project.	ISS 3930 Qualitative Research Methods: students in this course conduct participant observation while volunteering in a local organization.	80% of students will receive an 80% or higher on their final paper in which they write up and discuss their experiential learning experience.	63% (5 out of 8 students) earned an 80% or higher on their presentations (it appears as though the other 3 students may have dropped the course.	This criterion will be kept to provide a basis of comparison.

Academic Year: GOALS FOR FALL 2016 & SPRING 2017

Mission of Academic Program (include URL):
The degree core focuses on physical geography and environmental systems including the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. Particular emphasis is placed on the human modification of the natural environment and the global interconnections of the major earth systems. Electives for the degree program focuses on human geography (where the social and spatial effects of the growth of cities, including issues such as the conflicts, economic restructuring, the growth and decline of inner-cities, and urban racial and ethnic relations and disease are discussed) and physical geography (where land-use changes and impacts of urbanization on water resources qualities and quantities are discussed). Geospatial Science concentration focuses on the quantitative and analytical study of relationships of events and processes in space and time. In recent years, powerful new technologies and techniques have emerged that greatly improve our ability to acquire, archive, analyze and communicate information regarding people, places and other processes on or near the Earth's surface. These same technologies and analytical frameworks allow us to combine this information into multi-tiered databases describing complex and inter-related aspects of our physical and social world. Students will learn these technologies and analytical framework. Environment and Society concentration provides students with an in-depth understanding of the socio-cultural and political contexts in which specific environmental problems arise and are addressed. Popular conceptual frameworks in human-environment interaction, such as political ecology, sustainable development, and natural hazards, are applied to a range of environmental problems at the local, national and global scales.

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Geography students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the spatial and temporal variations in conceptualization of the human-environment relationship.

Geography students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.

Geography students will demonstrate understanding of the design and purpose of qualitative research methods in the social sciences.

Geography students will demonstrate an understanding of techniques by which geographic features are referenced on the earth and the methods by which they can be represented digitally for mapping and analysis purposes.

Geography students will demonstrate knowledge of a widely-used mapping/GIS software application.

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1. Content/Discipline Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Geography students will demonstrate knowledge of one of the world regions through analysis of examples of those regions/countries' historical or	GEA 2000 World Regional Geography. Students write a series of short analyses of contemporary geographic issues related	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on Chapter 1 Discussion Post; and Chapter 8 Discussion Post.		

contemporary social, political, economic, environmental, and/or cultural life.	to each of the ten world regions.			
Students will demonstrate an understanding of techniques by which geographic features are referenced on the earth and the methods by which they can be represented digitally for mapping and analysis purposes.	GIS 3006 Introduction to Computer Cartography: will be assessed via (a) term project that requires synthesis and integration of GIS concepts tools and thinking and (b) the Midterm II.	(a) 65% of GPY students will earn 80% or higher on their term project. (b) 75% of GPY majors will earn a minimum of 85% in the relevant questions in Midterm II.		
Geography students will demonstrate understanding of the design and purpose of qualitative research methods in the social sciences	ISS 3930 Qualitative Research Methods. Students design and complete an independent research project.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the paper		
Students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the contributions of the major writers and thinkers in environmental thought from within geography, environmental history, philosophy and the other social sciences.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students take a midterm exam and a final exam	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on both exams		
Students will demonstrate a strong understanding of the spatial and temporal variations	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students write weekly reflection papers	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the reflection paper.		

in conceptualization of the human-environment relationship.	evaluating varying perspectives on nature. One reflection deals specifically with representations of nature in the Global South.			
Students will successfully recognize and comprehend fundamental concepts, principles, and processes about the natural world.	GEO 2200 Physical Geography students take a comprehensive final exam.	80% of students will score 80% or higher on the final exam.		
Students will demonstrate mastery of the fundamental principles of cartography, map design, and production;	GIS 3006 Intro to Computer Cartography. will be assessed via (a) term project that requires map composition as a final product	85% of GPY majors will earn a minimum of 85% in the relevant section of the Term Project that measures map composition skills		
Students will demonstrate knowledge of a widely-used mapping/GIS software application.	GIS 3006 Intro to Computer Cartography – will be assessed by the lab exercises.	80% of the GPY majors will earn a minimum of 75% in key lab exercises that are designed to test software proficiency		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

2. Communication Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Students will demonstrate their ability to present their ideas and research orally.	ISS 3930 Qualitative Research Methods. Students present their final research to the class in a formal presentation.	80% of the students will achieve a score of at least 80% on each of these presentations.		

	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students present the results of their film analysis and their found object analysis orally.	80% of the students will achieve a score of at least 80% on each of these presentations		
Students will demonstrate a high level of written communication skills through a variety of analytic writing assignments.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students write two short papers of 5 to 8 pages. One analyzes the representation of nature in a film; the second analyzes a representation of nature in a found object.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on both papers.		
Students will communicate in writing the examination of scientific observations, hypotheses or models, to include quantitative analyses and relevance to societal issues	GEO 2200 Physical Geography: students complete a final research paper.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the paper.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed

3. Critical Thinking Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Students will demonstrate the ability to summarize and discuss the critical theories	GEO 4379 Geography of the Environment students take a comprehensive final	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the final exam.		

and concepts within the field of environmental thought.	exam which includes a substantial essay in which students bring various sources from the field into conversation.			
Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the role played by factors such as race, age, gender, ethnicity, economic status, environment, etc., in influencing human social interaction	GEA 2000 World Regional Geography. Students take an exam on fundamental social processes and geographic concepts and theories (Chapter 1).	80% of students will earn 80% on the Chapter 1 exam.		
Geography students will demonstrate the ability to critically deconstruct a variety of representations of nature and the human-nature relationship from within the canon of environmental thought.	GEO 4379 Geography of Environment. Students in this course write a short paper deconstructing the representation of nature in a found object. This analysis is done within the framework of the canon.	80% of students will receive a score of 80% or higher on the essay**.**		
Students will demonstrate the ability to critically examine and evaluate scientific observation, hypothesis, or model construction, and the use of scientific method to explain the natural world.	GEO 2200 Physical Geography take a comprehensive final exam.	80% of students will score 80% or higher on the final exam.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed

4. Civic Engagement:

Academic Learning Compact: Fall 2015- Spring 2016

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Geography students will engage in the community through experiential learning through the design and participation of a field based research project.	ISS 3930 Qualitative Research Methods: students in this course conduct participant observation while volunteering in a local organization.	80% of students will receive an 80% or higher on their final paper in which they write up and discuss their experiential learning experience.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed