Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Geosciences

Student Learning Objectives

Department
- Critical thinking and analytic reasoning.
- Real-world problem solving for effective decision making.
- Working in groups and consideration of diverse perspectives.
- Effective writing, presentational, and computational skills.
- Professional and ethical behavior.

Geology
- Fundamental geologic principles, including hands-on field experience.
- An understanding of geologic time and geologic processes.
- Solid background in physical sciences and math.
- History of the science and scientific method.
- New developments and discoveries in the field.
- Challenges facing humankind, including natural resources, energy, water, hazards, and global climate change.

Earth Systems
- Fundamental geologic principles, including atmosphere and ocean science.
- Solid background in physical and biological sciences, and math.
- Integration of large-scale Earth systems.
- Human impact on Earth systems.
- Issues and controversies of global change today.

Geography
- The social and physical processes that affect the location and distributions of people, their institutions, and their impact on the Earth.
- The tools used to map, display and analyze geographic data.
- The interdisciplinary nature of geography.
- Variations and differences in peoples and cultures.
- The spatial aspects of human, social and environmental issues.

Assessment tools
- Indirect: in-house designed exit interviews (planned); questionnaire (planned).

Highlighted recent activities
- Department has developed a series of informal meetings for undergraduates entitled “Get Your Ducks in a Row”, addressing topics related to career development, and success as gauged by student feedback has resulted in the Department determining to hold the series annually. (*This action does not appear to be linked to the use of evidence on student learning outcomes.*)