

**CHARLES E. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE****Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Graduates in Geography will understand basic concepts and theories in the spatial analysis of human-environmental systems as emphasized in the department such as: physical environment of South Florida, cultural landscape, water resources, coastal hazards, environmental management, urban sprawl and development, and sustainability. Students will complete a senior capstone course, GEA 4275 (Human/Environmental Interactions in South Florida). The course is designed to tie together many of the techniques, methods, theories and pertinent literature of the discipline of geography through various readings, assignments and a final project that is delivered in both written and oral form. Both B.A. and B.S. students in all tracks are required to take the course. The final project in the course will be used to determine student's content knowledge in the discipline, particularly focused on understanding the interrelations of human environmental systems.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills, Practical Skills): Graduates in Geography will use critical thinking to evaluate information, data and problems related to geography by applying basic principles of scientific methodology including data collection and/or field observations that are analyzed using appropriate quantitative or qualitative techniques that illustrate the understanding, description and modeling of a geographic problem.

All B.A. and B.S. students in geography will complete a senior capstone course, GEA 4275 (Human/Environmental Interactions in South Florida). The course is designed to tie together many of the techniques, methods, theories and pertinent literature of the discipline of geography through various readings, assignments and a final project that is delivered in both written and oral form. Through the final project, students will demonstrate their understanding of the scientific method as applied to geographic research or problem solving. They will use critical thinking to evaluate information, data and problems related to geography by applying basic principles of scientific methodology including data collection and/or field observations that are analyzed using appropriate qualitative, quantitative or spatial modeling techniques that demonstrate the understanding, description and analysis of a geographic problem. The final project in the course will be used to assess student's ability to use critical thinking to evaluate a geographic problem.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication; Oral Communication, Other Forms of Communication): Graduates in Geography will be able to produce writing that is grammatically correct and well-organized and to deliver clear and well-organized oral presentations. Both written and oral communications should illustrate clear communication skills that also demonstrate successful utilization of graphic tools in geographic information systems, remote sensing and other spatial display techniques.

All B.A. and B.S. students in geography will complete a senior capstone course, GEA 4275 (Human/Environmental Interactions in South Florida). The course is designed to tie together many of the techniques, methods, theories and pertinent literature of the discipline of geography through various readings, assignments and a final project that is delivered in both written and oral form. Through the final project, students will demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly and effectively in traditional written and oral form. However, as mapping techniques such as remote sensing, computer cartography and geographic information systems are the main communication tools for

research in geography, students must show their ability to communicate using one or more of these techniques. Thus, the final project should utilize graphics such as computer cartography, geographic information systems, and/or remote sensing, where appropriate, to aid in the communication/illustration of their research.