

Annual Academic Assessment Report
Department of Geosciences (GEOS)
MS GEOGRAPHY (GEOGMS)
May 2024

Report annually to the Dean of the college/school the following:

Direct Assessment Results

- Student performance in the two required classes is a direct method of assessing student competence in the theoretical and applied aspects of geographic knowledge:
 - *GEOS 5093/4093 History and Philosophy of Geography* – This class is offered as a required graduate class and as a capstone class for undergraduate majors. Graduate students submit two exams, a short project, and a long paper detailing how their research fits into the discipline. This paper also serves as a first draft of the student’s thesis literature review. In Fall 2023, there were four GEOGMS graduate students enrolled in the course. All three successfully completed the class with passing grades.
 - *GEOS 5612 Research Methods in Geosciences* – This class is offered to both Geography and Geology MS students and so has higher enrollment than the History of Geography class. In Spring 2024 the class had eight GEOGMS students enrolled. Students were required to submit a draft literature review and methodology and subsequently revise these assignments into a full research proposal. Five students received passing grades in the class, one student did not pass the course, and two students currently have an incomplete with the grade to be resolved by the end of May.

- Successful completion of MS Geography degree requirements:
 - During the 2023-2024 academic year (Summer 2023 to Spring 2024 inclusive) five students completed their master's degrees (see attached list).

□ **Indirect Assessment Results**

- Post graduate employment:
 - Of the five students who graduated between Summer 2023 and Spring 2024, three students are already employed full-time in either GIS/Cartography analysis positions or with the University of Arkansas (Wyatt, Afroz, and Thomason). One student will begin the Environmental Dynamics PhD program at the University of Arkansas starting in Fall 2024 (Wright). One student is currently looking for employment after finishing his degree in Spring 2024 (Steward).
- During the 2023-2024 academic year, seven GEOG MS students presented posters at the 2024 GeoHog conference held on 29 March 2024. One GEOG MS student presented a paper during the conference (The GeoHog conference is an annual internal department conference.)
- One GEOG MS student presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG) in Laredo, Texas (2-3 November 2023): Michaelmary Chukwu presented a poster, titled “Urban Park accessibility assessment using human mobility data: A systematic review”. Michaelmary was awarded third place in the SWAAG Graduate Poster Competition.
- Two GEOG MS students presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Honolulu, Hawaii (15-20 April 2024): Weilun Tay

presented a poster, titled “Land Change Dynamics and Food Security in Jakarta: A Bibliometric Analysis and Remote Sensing Approach to Disentangling the Cycle of Agricultural Abandonment, Urbanization, and Deforestation,” and Daniel Kissi-Somuah presented a paper, titled “Rural-Urban Migration and the Extent of Urbanization: A Case Study of Rural Migrants from Northern Ghana to Accra.”

- GEOG MS student publications (student names highlighted in **bold**):
 - **Chukwu, M.**, Huang, X., Wang, S., Li, X., & Wei, H. (In press). Urban park accessibility assessment using human mobility data: a systematic review. *Annals of GIS*, 1-18.
 - Wang, S., Huang, X., Liu, P., Zhang, M., Biljecki, F., Hu, T., ...& **Chukwu, M.**... & Bao, S. (2024). Mapping the landscape and roadmap of geospatial artificial intelligence (GeoAI) in quantitative human geography: An extensive systematic review. *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*, 128, 103734.
 - **Chukwu, M.**, Huang, X., Peng, B., & Oloruntimilehin, I. (2023). Flood Risk Evaluation Using AHP-Based Model and GIS Technique: A Case Study of Ethiopia East and West Local Government Areas, Nigeria. *Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing*, 51(12), 2561-2576.
 - **Kissi-Somuah, D.** (2023). Image-Making and the Promises of Accra. *The Field, ASLA Professional Practice Networks' Blog*. Available at: <https://thefield.asla.org/2023/12/14/image-making-and-the-promises-of-accra/amp/>.

- **Any changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis**

No changes anticipated based on the current year's assessment.

- Any changes to the assessment process made or planned.**

No changes anticipated based on the current year's assessment.

2023-2024 MS Graduates

Bruce Wright – Geography MS (Fall 2023)

Katie Wyatt – Geography MS (Fall 2023)

Mahmud Afroz – Geography MS (Fall 2023)

Willa Thomason – Geography MS (Fall 2023)

Charles Steward – Geography MS (Spring 2024)