

Annual Academic Assessment Report
Department of Geosciences (GEOS)
MS GEOGRAPHY (GEOGMS)
August 2023

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 2022, there were three 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 (required) and Geology (optional) MS students and so has higher enrollment than the History of Geography class. In Spring 2023 the class had four GEOGMS students enrolled. Students were required to submit a draft literature review and methodology and subsequently revise these assignments into a full research proposal. All four students successfully completed the course with passing grades.

- Successful completion of MS Geography degree requirements:
 - During the 2022-2023 academic year (Summer 2022 to Spring 2023 inclusive) seven students completed their master's degrees (see attached list).
- **Indirect Assessment Results**
 - Post graduate employment:
 - Of the seven students who graduated between Summer 2022 and Spring 2023, three students are already employed full-time in either GIS/Cartography analysis positions or policy positions in the Northwest Arkansas region (Garcia, Escalante, and Holtmeyer). One student is enrolled in the Space and Planetary Sciences PhD program at the University of Arkansas (Cleveland). One student will be working with the Walton School of Business as cartographer/graphics coordinator (Critser). One student is employed as Habitat Education Coordinator for Practical Farmers of Iowa (North). And one student recently secured a position as a 2023 ORISE Science, Technology, and Policy Fellow with the Department of Energy (Byers).
 - During the 2022-2023 academic year, six GEOS MS students presented posters at the 2022 GeoHog conference held in April 2023. (The GeoHog conference is an internal department conference held at the Pryor Center.)
- **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

2022-2023 MS Graduates

Kendall Byers – Geography MS (Summer 2022)

Christian Garcia – Geography MS (Summer 2022)

Vanya North – Geography MS (Fall 2022)

Racine Cleveland – Geography MS (Spring 2023)

Jackson Critser – Geography MS (Spring 2023)

Steven Escalante – Geography MS (Spring 2023)

Dan Holtmeyer – Geography MS (Spring 2023)