

**Trend Data for Assessment Findings, MA in Geography  
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Instrument	2009/2010 Results	Actions Taken	2010/2011 Results	Actions Taken	2011/2012 Results	Actions Taken	Summary
<i>Student Self-Assessment</i>	Students indicated they were gaining confidence in what they can do as they make progress in their program of studies and that they were better researchers than a year ago GIS students could list wide range of GIS skills they learned in the past year; they thought they could use GIS more proficiently than a year ago & they could teach other people GIS skills they learned in the past year.	Continuing efforts to keep up with new developments and technologies in GPS, GIS, and remote sensing to improve student learning and to stay competitive.	Students indicated they were gaining confidence in what they can do as they make progress in their program of studies and that they were better researchers than a year ago; GIS students could list wide range of GIS skills they learned in the past year; they thought they could use GIS more proficiently than a year ago & they could teach other people GIS skills they learned in the past year.	Continuing efforts to keep up with new developments and technologies in GPS, GIS, and remote sensing to improve student learning and to stay competitive.	Students indicated they were gaining confidence in what they can do as they make progress in their program of studies and that they were better researchers than a year ago; GIS students could list wide range of GIS skills they learned in the past year; they thought they could use GIS more proficiently than a year ago & they could teach other people GIS skills they learned in the past year.	Continuing efforts to keep up with new developments and technologies in GPS, GIS, and remote sensing to improve student learning and to stay competitive.	Students continue to express satisfaction with all three options; we are phasing out the non-thesis option in favor of all students writing a thesis; the rigor of thesis writing will definitely enhance our students' writing skills and critical thinking.
<i>Geog 5860, Geographic Inquiry</i>	Course was not offered in the 2009/2010 AY; no assessments results to report.		3 students received <b>Superior</b> , 3 students received <b>Excellent</b> , 2 students received <b>Good</b> , and 1 student received <b>Unsatisfactory</b> evaluations.	Focus at beginning of semester on choosing research topics; move discussions on geographic thought to middle of semester, while still keeping proposal writing classes in this period; require more drafts of some parts of proposal in	Geog 5860 was not offered in 2011/2012 AY; students who completed the MA did take it in the 2010/2011 AY & the assessment results are shown in Column 4 of this table.		Geog 5860 was added to enhance students' research & writing skills and to help students finish thesis in shorter period of time; impact of course on quality of

				order to work more on writing style with those students who need it.			thesis will be assessed as students who took the course write their thesis.
<b>Seminar/ Master's Paper</b>	No student with this option completed program in 2009/2010 AY.		5 students completed MA without thesis; student strengths: fairly good to strong writing skills, fairly good to excellent oral communication, good analytical capabilities, & enthusiasm for the subject; student weaknesses: not digging deeper into literature, difficulty articulating research questions and extending research methods farther, & problem of managing time and completing activates by due dates.	Actions being taken for Geog 5860 indicated above apply to this group.	Student strengths reported include fairly good to strong writing skills, fairly good to excellent oral communication, good analytical capabilities, and enthusiasm for the subject. Student weaknesses reported include not digging deeper into the literature, difficulty articulating research questions, and time management problem, and difficulty completing activates by due dates.	Non-thesis option is being phased; all new students admitted into the MA program will be required to write a thesis	Requiring thesis & the rigor of writing thesis are expected to enhance students' research and writing skills.
<b>Pretest/ Post-test in GIS Program</b>	a) Average pretest score was 53%. The pretest helped instructor to identify basic concepts to review before delving into advanced concepts in the advanced GIS course (b) Significant learning took place during the course of the semester; the average post-test score was 87%, 7% higher than the criterion ( $\geq 80\%$ ) for satisfactory performance. Average posttest scores for last four	(a) Instructor reviewed basic concepts before delving into advanced concepts in the advanced course. b) Pretest and post-test results were discussed in class. c) Assessment results will be discussed at faculty meeting in fall of 2010.	(a) Average pretest score was $<50\%$ and no student met criterion ( $\geq 80\%$ ) for satisfactory performance. Pretest helped instructor to identify which basic concepts to review before delving into advanced concepts in the advanced course. (b) Significant student learning took place during the course of	Instructors of Geog 5800 & 5830 will (a) modify/ improve assignments/ exercises to improve student learning & test scores in both the pretest & post-test & (b) add writing components to GIS courses.	Student took the pretest/post-test in a previous AY and performed exceptionally well; she scored 72% and 96% in the pretest and post-test respectively; $\geq 80\%$ in the post-test is considered a satisfactory level of performance.	Instructors of Geog 5800 & 5830 will continue to work together to improve student learning; writing component has been added to both course to improve writing and critical-thinking skills..	Cooperation between instructors for the two courses and the addition of a writing component to improve writing skills and critical thinking are improving student learning.

	test periods exceeded the criterion ( $\geq 80\%$ ) for satisfactory performance		the semester although the average post-test score did not quite meet was criterion ( $\geq 80\%$ ) for satisfactory performance.				
<i>Thesis</i>	No student with this option completed program in 2009/2010 AY.		No student with this option completed program in 2010/2011.		All three thesis students performed independent research projects involving a large amount of primary research and produced impressive pieces of work. However, one student took much longer than the 6 years allowed to finish MA program.	Geog 5860 was added to enhance students' research & writing skills and to help students finish thesis in shorter period of time; impact of course on quality of thesis will be assessed as students who took the course write their thesis.	Geog 5860 was added to enhance students' research & writing skills and to help students finish thesis in shorter period of time; impact of course on quality of thesis will be assessed as students who took the course write their thesis.