



MISSION STATEMENT & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES for Geography

Review Year:

2026

Division:

Arts & Humanities

Discipline/Program/Department:

Geography

Contact

Person(s): Myers, Carolyn

Mission Statement

The mission of the discipline of Geography at Southwestern Illinois College is to (1) broaden students' horizons through the study of how places and patterns on the Earth's surface emerge and evolve, (2) empower students with a geographic perspective that will help them critically evaluate current events as informed world citizens, and (3) provide a strong conceptual foundation for further study in the discipline.

Program/Discipline Curriculum Map

I = Introduce: Student is first exposed to the concept/idea and is requested to apply the concept in a limited scope.

E = Emphasize: Student applies concept(s) in varying/multiple situations of greater complexity than when initially introduced.

R = Reinforce: Student may be expected to understand the concept upon taking the course and utilizes the concept in conjunction with other concepts/ideas to solve problems.

PROGRAM/DISCIPLINE OUTCOMES

COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER

Graduates of this program/discipline shall be able to:	GEOG 143	GEOG 151	GEOG 152	GEOG 202	GEOG 240	GEOG 241
Employ maps as tools to characterize and analyze distributions of environmental phenomena and patterns of human activities. Beyond empowering students with a geographic perspective (<i>per</i> the disciplinary mission statement), learning to use maps as data visualization and analysis tools supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, COMPUTER LITERACY.	I	I	I		I	R
Compare and contrast environmental phenomena across regions, evaluating the opportunities and challenges that environmental conditions present for human activities. Beyond broadening students' horizons (<i>per</i> the disciplinary mission statement), practicing comparative analysis supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING.	I	I	I			
Compare and contrast human activities across regions, evaluating the impact of human activities on the physical environment at various geographic scales. Beyond broadening students' horizons (<i>per</i> the disciplinary mission statement), weighing how <i>our</i> actions impact the environment (in different ways at different scales) supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING, CIVIC & SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.	I	I	I	I		
Visualize current events both <i>in location</i> and <i>in place</i> , using mental maps to identify their absolute and relative positions on the earth's surface while applying a geographic perspective to contextualize and organize complexity. Beyond empowering students with a geographic perspective (<i>per</i> the disciplinary mission statement), exercising such 'big picture' thinking supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core area: CRITICAL THINKING.	I	I	I			
Scrutinize rhetoric that conjectures an imminent "end of geography". Beyond contributing to a strong conceptual foundation for further study in the discipline (<i>per</i> the disciplinary mission statement), such critical discourse analysis supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING.		I	I	I		

Map Comments:

Core Competency Map

CORE COMPETENCIES	COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER					
Communication Skills	GEOG 143	GEOG 151	GEOG 152	GEOG 202	GEOG 240	GEOG 241
1. Computer Literacy					X	X
2. Oral Communications						
3. Writing	X	X	X	X		
Reasoning Skills						
4. Critical Thinking	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Quantitative Literacy						
Citizenship						
6. Personal Accountability						
7. Civic And Social Accountability	X	X	X	X		