



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**WHITEWATER**

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

## GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to prepare students to engage with a complex, dynamic, and interdependent world by:

- Providing them with in-depth knowledge about human cultures and the physical world;
- Fostering intellectual and practical skills that enable analysis of spatial patterns and processes, evidenced-based problem solving, and effective oral and written communication; and
- Encouraging a sense of social responsibility through the examination of real-world cases.

Faculty are committed to preparing students for employment opportunities in the private and public sectors, the pursuit of graduate degrees, and to develop meaningful relationships to their university, professional, and local communities. We meet these goals through classroom lecture and discussion, collaborative assignments, undergraduate research, internships, field courses, and travel abroad.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Geography-Physical/Environmental will meet the following student learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of major geographical principles and concepts of:
  - Patterns and processes of physical geography relating to climate, landforms, vegetation, and soils;
  - Patterns and processes of human geography relating to population, cultural attributes, human settlement, and economic and political organization; and
  - Physical and human interactions in world regions and basic understanding of topical areas of geography.
- Apply intellectual and practical geographical skills:
  - Use the scientific method for inquiry and analysis;
  - Use both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis;

- Think critically and creatively about new information;
  - Use mapping technologies for analysis of and inquiry about physical and human geographical phenomena;
  - Contribute to team/group problem solving: conduct, present, and peer-review research and other collaborative projects; and
  - Effectively use oral, written, and visual presentation means of communication.
- Integrate geography with personal and social responsibility by applying geographic principles, knowledge, and skills to:
    - Understand how geographic concepts and techniques can inform local to global policies and actions related to natural hazards, land use, human rights, and environmental change; and
    - Think relationally about intertwined concepts such as community and economy, society and environment, and citizenship and globalization.
- Integrate knowledge from multiple fields and disciplines:
    - Synthesize how physical, chemical, and biological principles affect how humans interact with our environment;
    - Integrate the spatial scales of human-environment connections at local, regional and global scales; and
    - Appreciate that geography as an academic and professional discipline gathers techniques from diverse disciplines to offer important knowledge and analytical techniques that have application in solving important human problems.