



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

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 Education 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.

In addition, students who major in Geography Education will also meet the following education standards from the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC):

- **[Standard 1: Content Pedagogy]** He or she must understand the central concept and structure of discipline and it must be created in such a way that students can learn from it effectively.
- **[Standard 2: Student Development]** The teacher must be able to understand the student's ability to grasp things and must come up with the methods that can offer better personality development of the students.
- **[Standard 3: Diverse Learners]** The teacher must know that the students have different capabilities of learning and based on that must train them.
- **[Standard 4: Multiple Instructional Strategies]** The teacher must be able to understand and use a variety of instructional strategies so that they are able to solve problems, think critically and show better performance.
- **[Standard 5: Management and Motivation]** The teacher must be able to understand individuals and create a learning environment to encourage positive social interactions, self-motivation and active learning engagement.
- **[Standard 6: Technology and Communication]** The teacher should use verbal, non-verbal and media communication to impart knowledge in the students for their better understanding of the subject matter.

- **[Standard 7: Planning]** It is highly recommended that the teacher must be able to plan various things for students such as curriculum, community and students, and knowledge of subject matter.
- **[Standard 8: Assessment]** The teacher assesses the students formally or informally to evaluate the social, intellectual and physical development of the students.
- **[Standard 9: Reflective Practice: Professional Development]** The teacher is considered a reflective practitioner who can evaluate the effects of the choices and actions on others and prepares students to face the world professionally as well.
- **[Standard 10: School and community Involvement]** The last standard of [INTASC standards](#) is to develop the relationship amongst students, colleagues, society, parents and various other agencies to support learning and well-being.