

Master of Geographic Information Systems (MGIS)

Statement of Program Purpose/Mission

The Department of Geography seeks to deliver to its students the best geography education in Arkansas. The Department offers a Bachelor of Arts Degree, a Bachelor of Science Degree, a minor in Geography, a minor in Geographic Information Science, and a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems. The Department strives to maintain the highest academic quality and to assure that its curriculum remains current and responsive to the needs of the students it serves. The Department's mission is expressed in its commitment to the personal, social, and intellectual growth of its students; its support for its faculty members' advancement of knowledge; and its service to the community.

The Department of Geography implements its mission through its emphasis on the following central purposes:

- To deliver excellent curricula in degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels,
- To support its programs with personnel of the highest quality and with optimal resources and facilities,
- To create a departmental community that supports students in their personal, social, and intellectual growth,
- To enhance interaction and understanding among diverse groups and to cultivate global perspectives,
- To foster learning and the advancement of knowledge of its faculty through research and other scholarly and creative activities, and
- To serve the public in ways appropriate to the mission and resources of the Department.

Intended Outcomes/Objectives

1. Persons completing the Master of GIS degree will have the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully obtain employment in the public or private sector where GIS knowledge and skills are required.

2. Persons completing the Master of GIS degree will demonstrate their skills and knowledge by writing high-quality theses that are innovative and demonstrate sophisticated analytical techniques.

3. Persons completing the Master of GIS degree will express satisfaction with the program curriculum and general instruction in the degree program.

4. MGIS graduates currently employed in a public or private agency who use GIS and their employers will note that the degree adequately enhanced their knowledge and skills.

5. Persons currently employed in a public or private agency who use GIS will use their additional knowledge and skills to "advance" in their employment.

Assessment Procedures and Criteria

1. Of those persons who complete the Master of GIS degree and who are not already employed in a position that uses GIS, 90 percent or greater will successfully obtain employment in the public or private sector where GIS knowledge and skills are required. This will be measured by direct contact with those persons one year after the completion of the degree.

2a. 90 percent of the theses written by those persons who complete the Master of GIS degree will be rated High Pass or Pass by members of the thesis committee.

2b. 90 percent of the theses written by those persons who complete the Master of GIS degree will be innovative and demonstrate sophisticated analytical techniques. This will be measured by members of the thesis committee.

3. Of those persons who complete the Master of GIS degree, 90 percent or greater will agree or strongly agree with the following statement: "I was satisfied with the program curriculum and general instruction in the degree program."

4a. Of those persons currently employed in a public or private agency who use GIS, 90 percent or greater will agree or strongly agree with the following statement: "The Master of GIS degree adequately enhanced my knowledge and skills."

4b. Of those employers of the persons who completed the Master of GIS degree, 90 percent or greater will agree or strongly agree with the following statement: "The Master of GIS degree adequately enhanced the knowledge and skills of my employee."

5. Persons currently employed in a public or private agency who use GIS will "advance" in their employment. Advancement will be determined when the employee: 1) sees an increase in salary, 2) obtains employment elsewhere at a higher salary, or 3) is promoted within the current place of employment. This will be measured by direct contact with those persons one year after completion of the degree.