**University of Utah Department of Geography**

**Programmatic Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Guidelines**

**Program Purpose**

The mission of the University of Utah Department of Geography is to generate high quality research and teaching focused on the interactions between the human and physical environment. We are inspired to produce important scientific advances in our core research areas, including health and urban geography, hazards and security, climate change and paleoenvironment, GIScience and remote sensing, to provide professional and community service and to prepare students for in-demand careers in Geography and related fields.

**Learning Outcomes & Assessments**

1. basic understanding of the scientific discovery process in the discipline of geography
   1. Assessment: Have a 3-4 question Canvas quiz they take in either GEOG 3270/5270 or GEOG 3400/5400 (the two upper division content courses of which all students must take one) on the scientific discovery process;
2. basic understanding of at least one geographic subfield
   1. Assessment: Have a 3-4 question Canvas quiz they take in either GEOG 3270/5270 or GEOG 3400/5400 (the two upper division content courses of which all students must take one) on their subfield (physical or human geography);
3. ability to think spatially and conduct basic spatial analysis
   1. Assessment: Have a 3-4 question Canvas quiz they take in GEOG3020 (Geographical Analysis) on spatial analysis literacy;
4. ability to critically understand knowledge communicated in written and cartographic forms
   1. Assessment: Review the signature assignment in GEOG 3270/5270 or GEOG 3400/5400 (the two upper division writing courses of which all students must take one) to assess writing competency, and review the signature assignment in GEOG 3040 (cartography) to assess ability to communicate in a cartographic format.

**Assessment Team**

The Undergraduate Committee will meet in May of each year and review work samples (20% of submissions) for one of the 4 Learning Outcomes listed above. Data will be evaluated on the success of the students in meeting the criteria (based on a rubric for each, to be developed) and a report generated. This report will include recommendations for action by the chair and department.

**Assessment Reporting Line**

The assessment team (above) will generate the report which will be reviewed by the Department Chair. The chair will submit the assessment report to the Dean of CSBS including a statement of proposed action based on the assessment team recommendations.