

**University of Alaska Southeast
Geography and Environmental Studies BA
Program Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the BA in Geography and Environmental Studies, students will be able to:

- 1) Use qualitative and quantitative research techniques to gather and analyze data on social, cultural, and ecological problems.
- 2) Use clear written and oral communication skills to communicate the results of research.
- 3) Demonstrate connections between everyday life at the local scale and the larger economic, social, and/or environmental forces that network them into a global community.
- 4) Evaluate cultural, social, and environmental processes with a particular focus on space and place, critical theory, practical application, analysis and/or social justice.

Program Assessment Method and Activities

The effectiveness of the Geography and Environmental Studies program is assessed through the following faculty activities.

- **Assessment of Representative Student Projects and Assignments**

At convocation each year, Geography faculty will meet to review a sampling of materials and instructor overviews on chosen assignments that are representative of key geographic work in Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science. These student assignments and projects will demonstrate our students' mastery (or not) of the above stated Program Learning Outcomes as a guiding rubric. Faculty of each representative assignment will write an overview of Geography and Environmental students' success and limits with this particular assignment to be shared with the group which will provide data regarding how student outcomes on the assignment successfully target program SLOs. Our convocation meeting each year will provide a conversation on trends, observations, evaluation of student work with the intention of assessing whether or not students are meeting our outcomes. We will compare the result of this data to the previous years' data to identify patterns and developments in the program. Faculty will write a brief report on the findings from convocation with specific attention given to address adjustments to our courses, our evaluating assignments, and/or the overall program itself.

- **Faculty Meetings**

Geography faculty meet each semester to discuss program agenda items, progress, recruitment, majors, teaching duties, and curriculum changes.

- **Capstone Assessment Evaluations**

All majors are required to take a capstone course in their final year, during which faculty teaching that capstone will conduct an exit assessment (report below). The instructor of the capstone course will administer these student self-assessment evaluations as well as complete a survey assessing each student in the capstone course. At faculty meetings, these

evaluations (student and faculty instructor) will be examined for the purposes of program assessment.