Department of Geography
Learning Outcomes for Geography Majors (Revised May 2012)

Geography majors can:

- Define and describe the fundamental quality of the spatiality of phenomena and analyze that characteristic using either qualitative or quantitative methodologies and communicate the results of that analysis clearly in speech and writing;

- Formulate a cogent research question about the spatial character of a physical, socio-cultural, or environment-society phenomenon and express that question in the form of a research plan or proposal;

- Collect, identify and apply spatial data in either primary (including field work), or secondary sources;

- Interpret spatial patterns of economic inequalities and their relation to built and natural environments;

- Explain the structure of spatial linkages, or the processes that may tie, for example, local action to global effect, and be prepared to analyze these linkages and communicate the results of that analysis clearly in speech and writing;

- Interpret how socio-cultural, political, economic or environmental phenomena may construct a "space," a "place," a "landscape," a "location," or a "region" as a complex material or symbolic structure and be prepared to analyze these phenomena and communicate the results of that analysis clearly in speech and writing;

- Use with competence one or more of the several geotechnologies (i.e. remote sensing, geographical information systems, etc.) and articulate effectively the results of that use in speech, text, image, or map;

- Articulate in speech and writing the significance and application of the society-space and nature-society dialectics to environmental change;

- Describe and differentiate processes of globalization and their effects on regions, physical systems, cultures, and political divisions and be prepared to demonstrate that understanding in speech and writing;

- Exhibit a range of practical and communication skills, including but not limited to:
  - Conducting independent research and writing;
  - Conducting research and writing as part of a team;
  - Conducting research and analysis for a community client or other third party;
  - Engaging in critical and analytical thinking;
- Creating and delivering a presentation;
- Writing a 10-page research paper or compiling a scholarly poster.