2026 – 27 Departmental Assessment Plan

Department/Program/Unit: History, Geography, Intercultural Studies and Modern Languages
Date: 10/14/26

Members involved with development of Plan: Joel Helmer, Matt Phillips, Jamie Hink, Amy Royuk

Departmental/Program/Unit Student Outcome: *What student outcome from the departmental matrix will be assessed? (It is suggested that you cut and paste directly from the matrix. Outcomes should represent the absolute priorities for learning- students must be able to do [this] when they finish our program).*
State as follows: Students should be able to [action verb] [something].
Students will utilize geospatial technologies (GIS, GPS, remote sensing) to problem solve, conduct research, and create and share maps.

Background: *What factors caused you to choose this particular assessment outcome? If you chose this outcome because of a perceived problem, please explain*.
We selected this outcome since it includes a research component, problem solving, and sharing. The sharing component will take place at either the CUNE Undergraduate Research Symposium or the Nebraks GIS/LIS Symposium. Students will present their research/maps in the form of a poster.

Question: *What specific question(s) are you attempting to answer through assessing this student outcome? (What are you trying to find out? There may be more than one question, but no more than three.)*
Can students succesfully complete an independent geography research project utilzing GIS and then present their findings at a professional conference?

Methodology:

1. *OBJECT* - What data (i.e. artifact, exam score, detailed description of assignment) will be collected?* Students are required to produce a research poster in GEOG 361: Introduction to GIS.
    a. *How does this data address the assessment question?* Students are required to use GIS software to research, analyze, and map spatial data and then share results via a poster.
        i. *Include/attach a description/example of assessment tool to be used*.
2. *How will data be collected?* Posters are required in GEOG 361: Introduction to GIS during the spring 2027 semester.

Analysis of Artifacts: *PERFORMANCE CRITERIA* - Discuss:*
1) *How the artifacts will be analyzed (attach rubrics/scoring tools if used):* Rubric
2) *How you will know if it is good (i.e. score required by % of students):* Class average is above 80%

Submitted by: Joel Helmer Date: 10/14/26 Assessment Committee Reviewed (Date): 11/10/26

Department Chair notified of approval/or additional action needed: Approved