



Geography

Mission Statement

The mission of the discipline of Geography at Southwestern Illinois College is to (1) broaden students' horizons through the study of how places and patterns on the Earth's surfaces emerge and evolve, (2) empower students with a geographic perspective that will help them critically evaluate current events as informed world citizens, and (3) provide a strong conceptual foundation for further study in the discipline.

Educational Goals

The following six Educational Goals are mapped to both 1) Geography's disciplinary Mission Statement, and 2) Southwestern Illinois College's college-wide Core Competencies.

Students who successfully complete Geography courses will be able to:

1. Employ maps as tools to characterize and analyze distributions of environmental phenomena and patterns of human activities. Beyond empowering students with a geographic perspective (*per* the disciplinary mission statement), learning to use maps as data visualization and analysis tools supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, COMPUTER LITERACY.
2. Compare and contrast environmental phenomena across regions, evaluating the opportunities and challenges that environmental conditions present for human activities. Beyond broadening students' horizons (*per* the disciplinary mission statement), practicing comparative analysis supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING.
3. Compare and contrast human activities across regions, evaluating the impact of human activities on the natural environment. Beyond broadening students' horizons (*per* the disciplinary mission statement), practicing comparative analysis supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING.

4. Visualize current events *in location*, using internal mental maps to identify their absolute and relative positions on the earth's surface. A sound mental map is at the least an aid – if not a prerequisite – to student achievement of the other disciplinary educational goals.
5. Contextualize current events *in place*, using a geographic perspective to organize complexity. Beyond empowering students with a geographic perspective (*per* the disciplinary mission statement), exercising 'big picture' thinking supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, CIVIC & SOCIAL AWARENESS.
6. Interpret and scrutinize rhetoric that conjectures an imminent "end of geography". Beyond contributing to a strong conceptual foundation for further study in the discipline (*per* the disciplinary mission statement), such critical discourse analysis supports Southwestern Illinois College's broader mission of promoting student competency in the following core areas: CRITICAL THINKING, WRITING.

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