

B.S. Geographic Science and Community Planning (GSP)
Northern Arizona University
Degree Program Goals and Learning Outcomes
Adopted Spring, 2011

GSP Program Goals

(1) GLOBAL AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

GSP Students will gain awareness of the earth and develop confidence to engage with places, whether in their own communities or across the globe. Through an understanding of geographic scale, students will consider interrelationships between our physical and human environments to explain local and global issues. Likewise, they will explore how local and global influences create contemporary places and landscapes through environmental, social, and cultural processes. They will apply emerging technologies that engage them locally while thinking globally, better preparing them for a globalizing world.

(2) SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

GSP Students will communicate and apply approaches for maintaining sustainable environments, communities, and landscapes for the benefit of future generations. To do so, they will learn the fundamental interrelationships between the earth's physical and human systems. Physical systems include interactions of climate, water, landforms, and habitats, which are increasingly modified by human use and exploitation. In turn, human systems include cultural, social and economic processes that shape community development, design, and sense of place. Students will develop a variety of geospatial technology and community-based skills that support local, regional and global sustainability.

(3) OUR DIVERSE WORLD

GSP Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the planet in terms of its physical and human geography. They will learn how our natural and cultural landscapes have evolved through geographic time, space, scale, and context. They will develop self-awareness of their own situation and awareness and empathy for other peoples, cultures, communities and environments, and an openness to the earth's great geographic differences. They will learn skills of spatial thought and analysis that enhance their ability to work with and appreciate diversity, while maintaining the objectivity needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

GSP Learning Outcomes

(Note: Wording of outcome descriptions is subject to revision in future editions.)

1) Communication

GSP graduates will be able to professionally communicate synthesized knowledge through written and oral products appropriate for diverse audiences and perspectives.

2) Geospatial Techniques

GSP graduates will be able to interpret, design, and produce quality 2D and 3D computer-generated maps and illustrations that communicate spatial knowledge at local, regional, and global scales.

3) Planning and Participation

GSP graduates will be able to work effectively in teams to design more sustainable places through the synthesis and input of various disciplinary and community perspectives.

4) Research and Analysis

GSP graduates will be able to apply relevant qualitative and quantitative research methods to conduct scientific, objective inquiries at local, regional, and global scales.