

## Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of GEOGRAPHY Strategic Framework

**Vision Statement:** The Department of Geography provides critical, technological, and global perspectives on people, places, and processes within nature and society.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Department of Geography is to assist the University and the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences in achieving their goals through provision of distinctive geographic programs of instruction, research, and service. The Department is committed to clusters of integrated programs of instruction, research, and service that include, but are not limited to, urban and regional planning, physical geography, geographic information science, atmospheric science and rural development. Instructional goals include substantial opportunity for students' skill development within the broader context of an innovative liberal arts environment, which assures assessment and encourages continuous improvement to benefit students at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Research goals provide for the development of coordinated agendas that include, but are not limited to, the collaboration of colleagues to address real problems within the locale of eastern North Carolina. We envision a community of scholars, faculty and students, who are free to question and act in an environment of trust. Faculty and students alike embrace this freedom and protect it with responsible behaviors that emphasize productive excellence in instruction, research, and service.

**Strategic Directions:** The Department of Geography contributes to the basic Liberal Arts foundation and purposes of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the development and expansion of human knowledge (geographic processes), skill (geographic information technologies), and professional applications of this knowledge and skill (planning).

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

Geography	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Partnership/Engagement</li> </ul>	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/ Assessment
Develop undergraduate degree program in Geographic Information Science and Technology with possible MGIST to follow	This initiative is explicitly designed to address economic development opportunities associated with geo-spatial industrial growth (GIS, GPS, remote sensing, modeling)	Permission to Plan in 2007 with start-up in Fall 2009	*0.5 fte tech. staff *additional \$5.0k in operating *one GTA	*Anticipated enrollment of 50 by 2013 *internship *UCGIS
Develop undergraduate degree program in Applied Atmospheric Science	This initiative derives from the growth in demand for scientists at the intersection of atmospheric science, geographic information technologies, and hazards assessment	Permission to Plan in 2007 with start-up in Fall 2009	*0.5 fte tech. staff *625ft <sup>2</sup> instructional lab *additional \$7.5k in operating *one GTA	*Anticipated enrollment of 35 by 2013 *internship *NWS, AMA

Design and implement improved marketing of all geography and planning degrees	This initiative is designed to improve regional access to and awareness of issues and career opportunities dealt with by the unit's programs with special focus on high school counselors and students	Design in 2007/08 Implement in 2008/09	Reallocation of funds within the unit	Interactions and focus groups with high school teachers, counselors and students.
Develop enhanced content in globalization as a context for effective citizenship	This initiative is intended to improve the effective engagement of students (and future alumni) in an increasingly globalized environment with diverse partners.	2008 and beyond	Reallocation of funds within the unit	Content analysis of syllabi and course modifications or proposals

**A Region's Health**

Geography	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Partnership/Engagement</li> </ul>	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Increase instructional and research programs in land use development and environmental risks	The complex relationships between development, land use change, and environmental risk are crucial to the design of sustainable communities.	Fall 2008 with continuous development of curricula and research programs	Allocations within the unit.	Measures of productivity will include published and funded research.
Leverage unit expertise in GIST to benefit studies in health sciences	The Center for Geographic Information Sciences will increase numbers of partners within and outside academic community	Fall 2007 and onward	Allocations within the unit and the center, 1.0 fte technical staff position	Measures of productivity will include number of partners and contracts.

**A Region's Prosperity**

Geography	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Partnership/Engagement</li> </ul>	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Increase the number of majors with highly marketable skills in GIST	Creation of BS in GIST and BS in Applied Atmospheric Science will provide skilled analytic work force, will permit entry of GIST students from NCCC system and will provide industrial leadership	2010 and beyond	See items under 21 <sup>st</sup> century above (staff, space, operating)	Number of graduates and the success of practicing professionals

Technology transfer in use of advanced geo-spatial technologies	ECU's Center for Geographic Information Science will provide a point of technology transfer with service provision and continuing education. Development and partnership.	2010 and beyond	Existing Center resources, 1.0 fte staff position, and enhanced contracting	Numbers of contracts and trained students
Rural and Coastal Development	Unit emphasis on rural and coastal development will be further developed with emphasis on labor migration, land use change, infrastructural investment, and tourism.	2008 and beyond	Existing unit resources and additional external funding	Published articles, external grants and contracts
Planning Initiative	Effective development and integration of urban and regional planning research and instruction will provide positive consequences for regional development and health.	2008 and beyond	Existing unit and program resources with additional external funding	Published articles, external grants and contracts

**The Leadership University**

Geography	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Partnership/Engagement</li> </ul>	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Student Research\ Initiative	Enhanced opportunities for applied development studies and basic research in geography and planning	2008 and beyond	Funding for student travel and field work	Numbers of student publications, presentations, awards, number of students funded internally and externally
Student Outreach Initiative	Diversification of regional community partnerships in geography and planning	2008 and beyond	Funding for student travel and field work	Numbers of internships, service learning activities, and proposals written by students for regional communities