

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**Frostburg State University**  
**September 2019**

***MISSION STATEMENT:***

The Department of Geography is committed to offering to our students the highest quality instruction and mentoring we can provide commensurate with the mission and goals of Frostburg State University. High quality instruction in the programs leading to majors in Geography, Earth Science, Environmental Analysis and Planning necessitates mastery of a variety of skills in spatial analysis, application of field-based techniques and interpretation, analytical laboratory practices, and the use of technology in addition to a clear understanding of key concepts and basic methodology. Our commitment also includes preparation of our students to think like geographers, earth scientists, and planners, to cherish and enhance our communities and the natural environment and to assume significant roles in problem solving using critical thinking, research, and communication skills developed in their learning experience.

***VISION STATEMENT:***

We envision that the department will continue to build its reputation as one of the leading undergraduate geography programs in the nation in the areas of mapping science, global systems analysis, climate science, earth science, environmental analysis and planning, and urban and regional planning. Geography faculty will work to maintain, update, and improve the curricula associated with these outstanding programs. The department will continue to play a significant and vital role in the general education program through the maintenance and improvement of Geography 103 (Physical Geography), 104 (Human Geography), and 110 (World Regional Geography), along with IDIS course offerings (150/155, 160, and 350). Our programs and curricula will provide a balance of theory and technical skills, equipping students with an academic background that prepares them to address environmental, planning, and other geographically-oriented problems. We aim to aid our students in developing the capacity for both innovative and integrative thinking in a variety of professional and intellectual contexts. In order to help realize this demanding set of goals, the department will seek to add dynamic new faculty with a strong commitment to teaching and undergraduate research, and with high potential to contribute to the enhancement of geographic and experiential education at FSU.

***STRATEGIC GOALS:***

- 1] High-quality instruction in the programs leading to majors in Geography, Earth Science, Environmental Analysis and Planning, which allows students to develop a variety of skills in spatial analysis, application of field-based techniques and interpretation, analytical laboratory practices, and the use of technology in addition to a clear understanding of key concepts and basic methodology.
- 2] Geography faculty will work to maintain, update, and improve the curricula associated with these outstanding programs.
- 3] The department aims to be a learning community in which all faculty, students, and staff – if they choose to do so – can benefit from a positive, supportive and intellectual environment.

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***2019-2020 ACTION PRIORITIES:***

1. Re-evaluate program learning goals for the Geography major  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 1)
2. Engage students in applied, experiential, and interdisciplinary learning experiences  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 1)
3. Enhance classroom instructional environment to support student learning  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 1)
4. Conduct outreach programs for K-12 students  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 2)
5. Support community & cultural enhancement through department-sponsored events  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 2)
6. Recruit and retain diverse and talented faculty and staff  
(Aligns with CLAS Action Priority # 4)
7. Explore articulation agreement opportunities with Maryland community colleges  
(CLAS Action Priority # 5)