

Beginning to Incorporate Spatial Thinking and GIS into a Liberal Arts Curriculum

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Hilbert College

- Small liberal arts college
 - Few majors in the Social Sciences
 - Students planning to teach K-12 Social Studies must have a geography course
 - Many students using social science courses as liberal arts electives in professional programs

Liberal Learning Curriculum

--Six goals

- 1. Foster Core Skills*
- 2. Prepare Students for Living in a Diverse and Global Society*
- 3. Emphasize and Develop Inquiry Strategies and Capabilities in a Variety of Disciplines across the Curriculum*
- 4. Foster Research Skills*
- 5. Promote Integrative Learning*
- 6. Prepare Students for the Examined Life, Promoting Commitment to Lifelong Learning*

3 Components

- GIS courses
 - 2-semester sequence
- Incorporating spatial thinking in existing classes
 - Junior symposium
 - Other social science classes
 - Professional classes
- Raising faculty awareness and abilities
 - Short presentations on GIS
 - Day-long workshop
 - Introducing spatial analysis as a tool
 - Modeling best practices and current research uses
 - Hands-on practice

