

Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems

Head of Department's Message Geography and Geographic Information Systems

Praise be to Allah, who made His Holy Book a source of knowledge for the ancients and the latter generations, a reference for the laws of all creation, and a light and guidance for the worlds. May Allah's blessings and peace be upon Muhammad, His servant, messenger, beloved, the best of His creation, His trustee of revelation, and may peace be upon him abundantly.

About the Department

The Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems is one of the specialized departments in the Faculty of Arts at Derna University. It was established in 1996 AD, and the first cohort graduated in the academic year 1999-2000 AD.

Up to the academic year (2023-2024), 24 cohorts have graduated, totaling approximately (420) students, including (158) males and (262) females.

The department currently includes (56) male and female students, distributed as follows:

Level	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Total
Number	32	32	7	7	11	11	6	6	56

Regarding the specialized scientific competencies and cadres in the department, they are as follows:

Degree	Professor	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lecturer	Assoc. Prof.	Asst. Prof.	Lecturer	Asst. Lecturer	Total
Number	2	-	2	1	1	1	2	-	7

Department Vision

The Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems at the Faculty of Arts, Derna University, envisions becoming a distinguished scientific center with a special focus on advancing the local community in the fields of teaching, research, application, and building a unique knowledge base, and achieving a leading role in the field of geography and geographic information systems.

Department Mission

- **Preparing Qualified Cadres:** Equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills in the fields of geography and geographic information systems, with the aim of enabling them to work in diverse fields such as urban planning, and natural and environmental resource management.

- **Scientific Research:** Promoting scientific research in the fields of geography, environment, and geographic information systems, and contributing to the development of solutions for environmental and developmental problems at local and global levels.
- **Community Service:** Providing consultations and training to governmental and private entities, and supporting development projects using geographic information systems and modern technologies.
- **Continuous Development:** Adopting modern technological advancements in the field of geographic information systems and continuously improving academic programs in line with market needs.

Department Objectives

The department aims to prepare students scientifically and qualify them to work in government institutions, especially planning bodies, as well as in the fields of education, land, air, civil, and military surveying authorities. The department also seeks to advance scientific research in the fields of physical and human geography, serve national and regional projects, develop cartographic work skills, serve the environment, and develop¹ the community.

Objectives:

- To qualify national elements scientifically.
- To identify the elements of the human, natural, and urban environment.
- To understand population distribution and the factors influencing it, economic resources and related activities, as well as the political structure of the state internally and externally.
- To develop strategies and programs for development and economic, urban, and environmental planning, as well as programs for the development and planning of different regions and territories.
- To prepare plans and programs that link academic departments in universities with the local environment, in order to create a kind of interaction between the natural and human components of society, represented in economic activities and the movement and relationship of the population with other societies.
- To train students in dealing with modern geographical technologies, focusing on the applied aspects of geography, and employing these modern technologies in presenting and processing geographical information, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), digital maps, remote sensing, aerial photographs, and surveying, and to teach students how to conduct field surveys of the geographical environment.
- To provide students with the latest advancements in geographical knowledge and employ modern technologies.

- To contribute to the geographical scientific movement locally, regionally, and internationally through scientific research, holding seminars, conferences, specialized workshops, strengthening ties with institutions, and exchanging experiences with counterpart departments.

Department Activities

1. Organizing scientific trips to geographical areas in Libya.
2. Participation of faculty members in scientific conferences and seminars inside and outside Libya.
3. Holding exhibitions of photographs, maps, and models.
4. Working to establish a weather observatory, a drawing office, and a laboratory for analyzing and evaluating satellite images and converting them into maps.

Work Areas in the Department

1. Surveying works – aerial maps in airports and seaports.
2. Data monitoring work at the Civil Status Authority.
3. Education.
4. Regional planning.
5. Information centers.
6. Scientific research.

Department Study Plan

The department provides university education opportunities for enrolled students to prepare them with distinguished scientific preparation. The department grants a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Geographic Information Systems. The study program in the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems consists of 136 credit hours, distributed over four years divided into eight semesters. During this period, students study a range of subjects related to physical geography, human geography, and cartography, in addition to some historical subjects and some applied subjects related to modern methods and techniques, as well as remote sensing in geography and geographic information systems, and a set of basic cartographic subjects, in addition to field research and the graduation project.

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