

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan: MS Oceanography
 College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

October 2024

CFOS MISSION: The College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences supports the needs of Alaska and its communities, the nation and the international community through research and training the next generation of scholars and leaders in the wise use of Alaskan and Arctic aquatic natural resources.

CFOS VISION: As one of the largest combined research and academic organizations in the University of Alaska system, and one of the most diverse colleges in both geographic reach and academic mission, we seek to be a:

- World-class ocean and inland aquatic research and educational organization, recognized as such by peers in the academic community and funding agencies.
- Primary source of knowledge, operational expertise, and basic and applied research to manage freshwater, estuarine and ocean resources in Alaska, including the Arctic.
- Source of well-trained and highly motivated graduates to staff organizations and agencies, in particular those in Alaska responsible for management of Alaskan and Arctic waters and their renewable resources.
- College of choice for faculty and students with interest in high latitude Arctic and sub-Arctic waters and their renewable resources.
- Trusted steward of state and national research and educational facilities.

Objectives/Outcomes Intended	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
Graduates will have broad knowledge of oceanography disciplines	Students satisfactorily complete: core coursework, the defense of their proposed thesis, and the defense of their completed thesis. Goal: Graduates demonstrate broad understanding of core oceanographic principles. Graduates use this knowledge to summarize and interpret the findings of their particular research topic.	<u>Year 1-2:</u> Evaluation of core course performance by faculty teaching each course. (OCN 620, 630, 650, 660, 633) <u>Annually:</u> Evaluation of progress by advisory committee <u>Year 1-2:</u> Evaluation of dissertation proposal by the advisory committee <u>Final Year:</u> Evaluation of thesis defense by advisory committee and oceanography faculty. Evaluation of thesis by advisory committee, Department Head and Dean.
Graduates will attain experience in gathering data at sea or in the field.	All students conduct field work at least once, even if not required for their research. Students show satisfactory participation in fieldwork Goal: Graduates attain fieldwork experience through active participation in field work as part of their dissertation or as part of a field course.	Fieldwork opportunities are routine components of the Oceanography Graduate Program. <u>Year 1-2:</u> Evaluation of fieldwork-related courses by faculty teaching each course (OCN 699, 625, or independent studies) <u>Annually:</u> Evaluation of field participation outcomes by advisory committee
Graduates will be prepared to work as entry level professional scientists, and able to contribute to the body of scientific knowledge within an oceanographic discipline.	Students attain professional science communication skills to be able to produce work that is of sufficient quality to present at national conferences, to submit as reports to agencies or as manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. Goal: Graduates execute publishable research, and communicate at a level commensurate with being a professional scientist	Evaluations of oral presentations and writing assignments during courses by the faculty teaching each course. (OCN 620, 630, 650, 660, 699, and OCN electives). <u>Year 2:</u> Presentation of research at one national conference (e.g., Alaska Marine Symposium). <u>Annually:</u> Evaluation of progress by advisory committee <u>Final Year:</u> Evaluation of thesis defense by advisory committee and oceanography faculty. Evaluation of thesis with at least 1 publishable chapter by advisory committee, Department Head and Dean.

Submitted by: