

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
M.A. in Arctic & Northern Studies
College of Liberal Arts
Revised August 2020

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of UAF's Arctic & Northern Studies is to educate students and others on the Arctic region and circumpolar North, with focus on their peoples and communities, social systems, and environments in a rapidly changing context due to climate change, and prepare them to work on Arctic issues.. GOAL STATEMENT: The goal of UAF's Arctic & Northern Studies is to elevate significantly the interdisciplinary knowledge and curiosity of and appreciation for the Arctic region and circumpolar North among students and others and to provide an academic structure for learning about the Arctic region and circumpolar North for the UAF and wider academic and policy communities through high quality teaching and mentoring; innovative research and scholarship; and service, outreach, and networking.	Students will learn interdisciplinary ways to conceptualize and think about the Arctic region and circumpolar North.	M.A. students must take and pass the introductory / orientation seminar to the ACNS M.A. program, ACNS 600 Perspectives on the North. *Students typically take the course during their first semester in the program.	*This course is typically taught by an ACNS program leader.
	Students will learn about the region's peoples, communities, political systems, policies, histories, geographies, economies, ecosystems, literatures, and art forms.	M.A. students must choose one of three concentrations (Arctic Politics and Policy, Northern History, or Individualized Study) and take and pass courses that satisfy their concentration.	*ACNS advisors will ensure that students meet all requirements to complete their chosen concentration.
	Students will improve their research, theoretical, methodological, and writing skills.	Students must complete and pass ACNS 601 Research Methods and Sources in the North and ACNS 689 Thesis Writing Workshop. *Other courses, as well as comprehensive exams and the thesis/project, will provide opportunities to hone these skills. *They must also work closely with their thesis or project committee.	*ACNS administrators will monitor student progress towards degree completion. Students must satisfactorily complete coursework, comprehensive exams, proposals, thesis or project drafts, and final theses or projects.
	Students will master two fields of literature related to their focus in the program.	Students must successfully pass two comprehensive exams related to their fields of study. Faculty evaluate students' comprehensive exams with a rubric.	*Students and their committees collaboratively identify topics of exams and related reading lists *Students typically complete their comprehensive exams at the start of or during their second year. *Students must pass their comprehensive exams before writing their thesis or project. *Students' faculty committee evaluates comprehensive exams with a rubric developed for the program.
	Students will produce and successfully defend an MA	*The Institutional Review Board (IRB) must approve all	*Students typically present and defend their thesis or project

Submitted by: Professors Brandon Boylan and Tyler Kirk

	thesis or project that requires: a comprehensive review of the scholarly literature related to the student's selected topic; incorporates original data collection; demonstrates understanding and application of an appropriate research method(s); contains written analysis and/or interpretation; and integrates the work within the field to make a valuable contribution to the scholarly understanding of the Arctic and circumpolar North.	student research involving human subjects. *Students present and defend their thesis or project in a public setting. *Students' MA committees evaluate each thesis or project using either the ACNS Thesis Evaluation Rubric or the ACNS Project Evaluation Rubric.	during their last semester in the program *ACNS faculty, other faculty, ACNS and other students, and the public are invited to attend thesis and project defenses. *Students' faculty committee evaluates the thesis or project with a rubric developed for the program.
	The program offers opportunities for experiential, applied, and other out-of-classroom learning. This includes participation in the Model Arctic Council, research and scholarship, field trips, lectures and presentations by visiting scholars, and participation in ACNS social and academic events.	These opportunities will be announced through the ACNS website, email, and social media.	*Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Model Arctic Council and other opportunities as they are provided. *ACNS leaders will inform students of these opportunities.
	Students will find employment in or about the Arctic region and circumpolar North in which they can apply knowledge and expertise developed in the ACNS program.	*ACNS maintains a website of alumni and their professional accomplishments.	ACNS contacts alumni through email and social media to obtain their current employment and other updates.