

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
PhD NRS

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Expanded Statement of Intuitional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
The Department of Natural Resources and Environment is committed to providing quality graduate education through small classes, close student-faculty relationships and research and scholarly endeavor. Continuous self-examination, flexibility and openness to innovation enhance the quality of graduate education available to students. The hallmark of the graduate program in Natural Resources and Environment is its recognition of individual differences and interests of students, and responding to these individual needs. The PhD NRS focuses on the sustainability of natural resources and communities that depend on those resources. Goal Statement: PhD NRS graduates will enter into advanced	1) Graduates will have research skills to contribute to the advancement of the natural resources sustainability field and address sustainability problems faced by society. 2) Graduates can synthesize knowledge from multiple disciplines and provide new insights into natural resources sustainability. 3) Graduates are proficient in communicating their knowledge in oral and written format to scientists, agencies and private sector personnel at state, national, and international levels. 4) Graduates are prepared to enter careers in natural resources management or academia.	1) Comprehensive exams will be used to assess if a student's research skills have potential to advance the field. Passing comprehensive exams is evidence of achievement of objective #1. At least 95% of students will pass their comprehensive exams. 2a) Dissertation-related peer-reviewed publications will be taken as evidence of objective #2. Graduates will publish, on average, two peer-reviewed journal articles from their dissertation within two years of graduation. 2b & 3a) Dissertation defenses will be assessed for objectives 2 & 3. Dissertation defense will be rated on the rigor of the student's research design/analysis, the soundness of the process used to reach their conclusions, and communication skills.	1) The academic program assistant will track comprehensive exam outcomes using the report of comprehensive exam forms. 2a) Committee chair will track the student's progress towards publishing; data will be compiled by the academic program assistant. 2b & 3a) Committee chair will administer a questionnaire to dissertation defense attendees. Data will be compiled by the academic program assistant. 3b. Committee chair will track the student's professional presentations; data will be compiled by the academic program assistant. 4) Committee chair will track the student's initial job search/success; data will be compiled by the

research-oriented positions within agencies or private firms or enter into academia. They will contribute to the field through publications, conference presentations, and collaboration with other researchers.		This will be conducted via a set of questions passed out to attendees (see attached). Questions will be asked on a 5-point scale where 1 = weak and 5 = excellent. A score of ≥ 4.0 will be taken as evidence of competence related to the goals. 3b) Professional presentations will provide evidence of communication skills. 70% of the students will make at least one professional conference presentation during their PhD program. 4) At least 80% of graduates seeking to enter the workforce will secure relevant jobs requiring advanced degrees/knowledge	academic program assistant.
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