

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
Wildlife Biology and Conservation, MS
 College of Natural Science and Mathematics
 October 2025

Mission Statement: The Wildlife Biology and Conservation MS degree program provides training in advanced ecological concepts that are required to understand and apply the principles, methods, and tools of wildlife research, management, and conservation.

Goal Statement: The program will provide graduates with the qualifications necessary for positions in research and management as professional wildlife biologists. The curriculum also lays a solid foundation for advanced graduate study.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
1. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of wildlife biological knowledge relevant to the student's research area and apply the scientific method by writing an original scientific project proposal 2. Communicate science effectively in writing 3. Communicate science effectively in speech 4. Contribute original knowledge discovered through research to the broader scientific community	1. M.S. students will write a formal thesis proposal following the general format of a research grant proposal and including at minimum an introduction, rationale, research plan including methodology and data analysis, and a set of references cited 2. Assessment of writing quality in the student's thesis proposal is included in the proposal assessment rubric 3. M.S. students will present and defend their thesis effectively in a public setting 4a. At least half of M.S. graduates will publish a thesis-related journal article or book chapter within four years of graduation 4b. At least 30% of M.S. students will present their work each year to a broad audience, for example at a meeting or conference.	1. The student's graduate advisory committee members will evaluate the student's research proposal based on a rubric, provide formative feedback, and communicate their final evaluations to the department chair 2. The student's graduate advisory committee members will evaluate the quality of the science writing in the student's proposal using a rubric 3. The graduate advisory committee will assess the quality of communication using standard rubric 4a. B&W will monitor publications by former M.S. students to quantify the average frequency of publication of thesis research in peer-reviewed journals and other avenues of written science within 4 years of graduation 4b. B&W will track presentations made by students using two forms: an annual survey by the department, and the Graduate School's Report of Advisory Committee form