

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

Graduate School and Interdisciplinary Studies
August 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: The graduate interdisciplinary PhD program responds to increasing societal needs for research that addresses complex problems and supports students in conducting multidisciplinary (drawing on multiple disciplines), interdisciplinary (investigating the interactions between multiple disciplines), and/or transdisciplinary (engaging stakeholders outside the university as collaborators) research and scholarship. The program supports students to develop and execute an individual program of study that meets their needs and goals. The program also supports students to pursue research and scholarship in areas where degrees are not offered by existing programs at UAF. The graduate interdisciplinary program is administered by the graduate school and supported by UAF faculty and departments.

GOAL STATEMENT: To prepare students to conduct independent and original research that addresses complex problems and meets their intellectual and professional goals.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
Students entering the PhD program can communicate at a graduate level and identify an interdisciplinary topic.	Application includes a statement of academic goals, research prospectus, graduate study plan, and letters of endorsement.	Interdisciplinary studies council review the application for quality of research plan, study plan, and interdisciplinarity of research. Council vote on acceptance.
Established students will acquire mastery of concepts and state of knowledge in their chosen disciplines and understand interactions between these disciplines that define their subject area.	Established students will pass a written and oral comprehensive exam testing the interdisciplinary knowledge related to their subject.	The graduate advisory committee will administer the comprehensive exam. Typically in the third year of study.
Students will make original and substantial contributions to knowledge in their field of study, which will be communicated in oral and written form	Students will write a dissertation, publicly present the work, and defend their thesis in an exam setting. Students will publish their work and submit grant proposals as appropriate.	Graduate advisory committee will evaluate the students work on an annual basis; Department and graduate school will monitor student progress on an annual basis. Students report annually about papers published, presentations given, and any proposals submitted.
Students will obtain employment in their chosen fields, advance within their existing employment, or otherwise meet personal objectives for completing the degree.	Professional activities of graduates will be tracked.	Graduate school will survey and track graduates, and compile and review information on a semi-annual basis.