Annual Outcomes Assessment Report
for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences’ MS Program

by Nicole Mölders

May 2012

1. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences’ MS program’s student learning outcome has been assessed by graduated students since 2001.

2. We intend to continue collecting data of exit interviews and Student Learning Outcome Assessment (SLOA) for the MS program.

3. Outcomes data and exit interviews were collected in 2011/2012 for the four students who graduated in AY12 and the SLOA files were updated accordingly. Of the four masters’ students 75 percent are either employed or continuing their education either at UAF or somewhere else. One graduate planned to tour Europe prior to deciding of the future path.

4. All of the graduates said it was a good idea to hire a micrometeorologist for the opportunity of field work and the teaching of a sea-ice air class was good. A special topic class on writing skills was suggested; in response, some of the faculty did implement scientific writing in their classes in form of students’ projects.

5. A frequently mentioned difficulty is funding. However, with 99% of our program budget (including one TA position) bound in salaries there is no possibility to fund students out of the departmental budget.

6. Students want to have more opportunities to gain teaching experience. Unfortunately, we have only one TA position which means that only one student per year will have a chance to get such experience. We will try to work with other departments for opportunities. For spring 2012 one of the MS students served as a teaching assistant for the Department of Physics.

7. Like for the previous years, the filled out 2012 “MS SLOA” is stored in the department’s administrative office.

8. A synoptic faculty search was conducted and an offer was made. It is planned that the candidate will teach his first class fall 2012.

9. Four masters’ students either presented posters or gave oral presentations at the CEDAR workshop, the Alaska Weather Symposium, the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Open Science Conference, and AGU.

10. Budget implications: We need some support for graduate student stipends.

   Attachments: MS SLOA; PhD SLOA
   Annual Outcomes Assessment Report for the MS program

   cc: Dean Paul Layer, Ms. Hild Peters