1. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences’ PhD 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 PhD program.

3. All PhD graduates are employed. Outcomes data and exit interviews were collected for the two students who graduated in AY15 and for the one student who graduated in AY16. The SLOA files were updated accordingly. Of the three PhD students, two are employed in the US as post-docs and became a support scientist for a NASA contractor.

4. A frequently mentioned difficulty is funding for student stipends as well as student travel. However, with 99% of our program budget (including one TA position for the spring) bound in salaries there is no possibility to fund students out of the departmental budget. While in former times, institutes, the college, and Graduate School helped students out with sponsoring them to finish their degrees, these entities no longer can afford this student support due to their budget cuts. Students were afraid not being able to finish their degrees given the budget cuts.

5. Students want to more opportunities to gain teaching experience. Unfortunately, we have only one TA position, i.e. only one student per year can get such experience. We will work with other departments for opportunities but their graduate student funding is tight as well. Some students complained about some redundancy in classes. We revised the curriculum of the courses to reduce overlap.

6. As in previous years, the completed 2015 and 2016 “PhD SLOA” is stored in the department’s administrative office.

7. One PhD student won a teaching stipend, which permitted him to finish his degree. One won the department’s student publication award. Two PhD students won presentation awards.

8. Three PhD students either presented posters and one gave an oral presentation at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference, the Coupling, Energetics and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR) conference, the Arctic Science Summit (ASSW) & Arctic Observing Summit, and a conference in India.

9. Three PhD students have published papers as either first author or co-author during their tenure as PhD students.

10. Budget implications: We need some support for graduate student stipends and thesis completion fellowships.

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

cc: Dean Paul Layer, Executive Officer. Hild Peters