

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
Biological Sciences MS

College of Natural Science and Mathematics

September 2020

MISSION STATEMENT: The Biology and Wildlife Department educates students from diverse backgrounds worldwide about living systems with an emphasis on the circumpolar North by fostering intellectual inquiry, problem solving, and creativity through coursework and research.

GOAL STATEMENT: The Biology and Wildlife Department aims to provide its students a strong foundation in biological knowledge; to empower them through course experiences, research and inquiry to think creatively, flexibly, and critically; and to prepare them to achieve their future educational and professional goals.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p>Knowledge Students in the graduate program should have adequate knowledge of biological sciences.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The department will conduct an initial assessment of the student's academic background and make recommendations to the graduate committee to remedy weaknesses. 2. A Comprehensive Exam will test the biological knowledge related to the student's project. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Assessment Interview is conducted by the Comprehensive Exam Committee, the student's advisor, and one member of the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. 2. The Comprehensive Exam is administered by the Comprehensive Exam Committee
<p>Communication of Science Students will make contributions to scientific knowledge in their field of study, which will be communicated in oral and written form.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will write a thesis, publically present the work, and defend their the in an exam setting. 2. Students will write publishable manuscripts, make presentations at professional meetings, and write successful grant proposals. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graduate Student Advisory Committee will evaluate the student's thesis and defense; Department Chair and office staff will monitor student progress. 2. Students report annually information about papers published, presentations given, and grant proposals submitted to the Department Chair. Office staff will compile information annually and the Chair will review.
<p>Occupation Students will obtain employment in biology, continue on to further education, or otherwise meet personal objectives for completing the degree.</p>	<p>Professional activities of former graduate students will be tracked.</p>	<p>Department Chair and office staff will compile and review information bi-annually.</p>