### UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
Northern Studies MA Program
College of Liberal Arts
Revised December 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose</th>
<th>Intended Objectives/Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria and Procedures</th>
<th>Implementation (what, when, who)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MISSION STATEMENT:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. To foster students’ multidisciplinary appreciation of the circumpolar North, and to develop students’ understanding of the issues and challenges facing the peoples, systems, and environments of the circumpolar North | Students will experience diverse ways of conceptualizing and thinking about the North. | The introductory seminar to the NORS MA Program: NORS 600 Perspectives on the North is required of all students. Students will complete the course with a B or higher grade. | Students typically take the course during their first semester in the program.  
this course is typically taught by the Director of NORS |
| 2. To provide a locus for discussion and analysis of the circumpolar North, particularly as it experiences social, political, climatic, and environmental changes | Students will perceive academic growth in their understanding of the North. | Qualitative assessment of students’ perception of their academic growth through instrument entitled “Perceptions of Academic Growth in NORS” (in development) | Qualitative assessment instrument  
Administered to individual students at the completion of the program  
Analized by NORS faculty |
| 3. To prepare students for living and working in the north | Students will find work and/or create satisfying lives in the North in which they can apply knowledge and expertise developed in the NORS Program | The program maintains a database documenting our graduates’ professional and personal accomplishments | Regular post-graduation communication with NORS alumni including an annual email from the Director requesting updates about accomplishments  
Database administered by NORS admin assistant |
### GOAL STATEMENT:

1. **Provide a high quality multidisciplinary education in Northern Studies to students seeking an MA in NORS; to those taking NORS classes as part of another program; and to students who wish to satisfy their intellectual curiosity and interest in the North**

   - The program offers opportunities for experiential, applied, and other out-of-classroom learning, e.g. hands-on participation in research and scholarship, field trips, lectures and presentations by visiting scholars, and participation in NORS social and academic events.

2. **Facilitate the development of students’ broad understanding of northern topics, as well as deep expertise within at least one specific field or topic**

   - Students will demonstrate written and oral competency in two fields of literature related to their chosen foci in the program.

3. **MA students will pursue a substantial research or creative project that draws upon multiple disciplines and demonstrates effective and ethical understanding of research methods.**

   - Students will produce and successfully defend an MA thesis or project that requires: a comprehensive review of the scholarly literature related to the student’s selected topic; incorporates original data collection; demonstrates understanding and application of an appropriate research method(s); contains written analysis and/or interpretation; and integrates the work within the field to make a valuable contribution to the scholarly understanding of the North.

4. **Provide an academic structure for learning about the Northern context for the entire university community through high quality teaching and innovative research and scholarship on the North**

   - Students will explore original research, scholarship, and creative activity that focuses on the North through their interactions with NORS faculty, visiting scholars hosted by NORS, and through presentations in the Northern Seminar Series.

   - Northern Seminar Series events, presentations by local and visiting scholars; as well as faculty research presentations, readings and performances; and students thesis and project defenses allow NORS students multiple opportunities to learn and network outside the classroom.

   - Question about quality of opportunities for experiential, applied, and other out-of-classroom learning is part of the Perceptions of Academic Growth in NORS instrument

   - Annual summary of Northern Studies Seminar Series events with approximate attendance count and projected impact

   - Count of attendees at NORS-sponsored events; Count of students who attended field trips.

   - Students and their committees collaboratively identify topics of exams and related reading lists

   - Typically taken in the semester before the student graduates

   - Students typically present and defend their thesis or project during their last semester in the program

   - NORS faculty, other faculty, NORS and other students, and the public are invited to attend thesis and project defenses

   - Students typically take the CITI training and obtain their certificate of completion during their second semester as part of NORS 601, Research Methods and Sources in the North

| Students will produce and successfully defend an MA thesis or project that requires: a comprehensive review of the scholarly literature related to the student’s selected topic; incorporates original data collection; demonstrates understanding and application of an appropriate research method(s); contains written analysis and/or interpretation; and integrates the work within the field to make a valuable contribution to the scholarly understanding of the North. | Students present and defend their thesis or project in a public setting. Students’ MA committees evaluate each thesis or project using either the NORS Thesis Evaluation Rubric or the NORS Project Evaluation Rubric. Students pass the CITI training documenting their successful completion of coursework on research ethics that protect human subjects. | • Students typically present and defend their thesis or project during their last semester in the program

   - NORS faculty, other faculty, NORS and other students, and the public are invited to attend thesis and project defenses

   - Students typically take the CITI training and obtain their certificate of completion during their second semester as part of NORS 601, Research Methods and Sources in the North |

| Students will demonstrate written and oral competency in two fields of literature related to their chosen foci in the program. | Students take two written comprehensive exams related to their fields of study. Students’ MA committees evaluates this work using the NORS Comps Rubric (in development). | • Students and their committees collaboratively identify topics of exams and related reading lists

   - Typically taken in the semester before the student graduates |

| Students will explore original research, scholarship, and creative activity that focuses on the North through their interactions with NORS faculty, visiting scholars hosted by NORS, and through presentations in the Northern Seminar Series. | Northern Seminar Series events, presentations by local and visiting scholars; as well as faculty research presentations, readings and performances; and students thesis and project defenses allow NORS students multiple opportunities to learn and network outside the classroom. | • The Northern Seminar Series offers presentations at least annually.

   - Research presentations, performances and readings are scheduled on an ad hoc basis.

   - NORS grad student defenses occur in batches in late spring and late fall. |