

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

by Nicole Mölders
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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. All graduated students are employed. Outcomes data and exit interviews were collected in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 for the six students who graduated in AY15 and the two students who graduated in AY16. The SLOA files were updated accordingly. Of the eight masters' students, one, and three are in PhD programs the University of Reykjavik, Iceland, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, respectively. Three graduates took positions in their area specialization, one of them took a position in Alaska in the oil industry for weather- and sea-ice forecasting, one took a position in emergency management in New York, and one took a position as physics instructor in a community college.
4. A frequently mentioned difficulty is funding. However, with 99% of our program budget (including one TA position for spring semester) 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.
5. Students want to more opportunities to gain teaching experience. Unfortunately, we have only one TA position for spring semester, i.e. only one student per year can get such experience. We will try to work with other departments for opportunities but their graduate student funding is tight as well. Some students complained about some redundancy in classes, and we revised the curriculae to reduce overlap. Students ask for more applied classes that place them in jobs beyond academia, and research. Areas of interest are government, consulting, media, and hazard management. DAS is discussing how to incorporate more applied components in classes without harming the material needed for the traditional atmospheric science jobs. DAS has worked with the NWS to create opportunities for training in weather forecasting.
6. As in previous years, the completed 2015 and 2016 "MS SLOA" are stored in the department's administrative office.
7. Five MS students won awards such as travel awards to attend international conferences and workshops (NCL workshop, Natural Hazard Course Design) in the Lower 48. One won the department's Ted Fathauer Memorial Award.
8. A total of five masters students had published papers as either first or co-authored.
9. Five posters were presented by MS students at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and other prestigious conferences during AY15 and AY16.
10. Budget implications: We need some support for graduate student stipends and thesis completion stipends.

Attachments: MS SLOA; PhD SLOA, Annual Outcomes Assessment Report for the MS program
cc: Dean Paul Layer, Executive Officer Hild Peters