

# Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

## **Atmospheric Sciences, PhD**

*College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics*

**AY2016, AY2017, AY2018**

**Submitted by: Department of Atmospheric Sciences**

**Contact Information: B.D. Day**

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### **1. Assessment information collected**

During the reporting period, four students graduated with a Ph.D. The Department of Atmospheric Sciences Student learning Outcome Assessment for Ph.D. graduate students was submitted to all four graduates immediately after submission of their thesis to the Graduate School. 75% of them responded. They graduated in 2016 (1), 2017 (1), 2018 (2). At the moment of graduation three had no position yet. The fourth graduate took a teaching position as a faculty at a community college. 100% of the 2017, 2016 graduates found a post-doc position within a less than year in their research field. The 2018 graduates just finished their theses this semester. Out of the graduates who returned the SLOA questionnaire 33.3%, 33.3% and 33.4% found the experience in research, the interdisciplinary research and the education to be a scholar, respectively the most valuable for their career. 100% of the graduates found finding a position the most challenging. 33.3%, 33.3% and 33.4% of the responding graduates said that they could have benefited from learning GIS, research methods, and academic communication with colleagues, respectively. The completion rate in the Ph.D. program over the last 18 years is 72%.

### **2. Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above**

The department of atmospheric sciences faculty concluded that no action is necessary with respect to the GIS, research methods and communication skills education for the following reasons: A GIS class is offered in the college. The student could have taken the class if they had wanted to. The department offers two seminars at different levels where academic communication skills are taught and practiced. The student could have taken them if they wanted. A research method class was offered in spring 2016. The graduate who brought up that such a class would have benefited them, hadn't enrolled in that class.

Faculty concluded that education on how to find a post-doc position, how to prepare to the interview could be addressed within the framework of one of the seminars.

**3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above**

Two faculty volunteered to give a talk about these challenges within the framework of the atmospheric sciences informal seminar (ATM688) in fall 2018.

**4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting**

Bhatt, Collins, Fochesatto, Mölders, Polyakov, Zhang

**5. Has your SLOA plan been updated to include assessment of the program's Communication Plan, as required by Faculty Senate motion?**

No. This [plan](#) addresses BS programs. This program is a PhD. Program.