

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS  
**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan**  
**MS Wildlife Biology and Conservation**

Dept. of Biology and Wildlife, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
4 May 2016

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b> We educate biologists to conduct research to address problems of understanding, monitoring and managing populations of wildlife. We support students and the research with grants, contracts and partnerships with public and private institutions.  <b>GOAL STATEMENT:</b> Graduating students will be prepared for the workplace or further graduate study and will be capable of making the results of their research available to the profession and the public in theses, peer-reviewed journals, technical reports, and scientific meetings.	Students entering the program should demonstrate a broad knowledge of the biology of animals that includes and understanding of the structure and function of individual organisms, the interactions among populations and communities of animals, plants, people and their environment, and the principles of monitoring and managing animals and their habitats.	The department administers an initial assessment of the student history, and makes recommendations to their graduate committee for courses or guided study to address deficiencies.	Graduate student comprehensive exam committee.
	Students will effectively communicate scientific evidence in both oral and written form. They will be able to make cogent scientific arguments for specialist audiences in the sciences but will also be able to present arguments and evidence to general audiences.	Students will write and defend a research proposal by the end of their first year. Students will prepare a written thesis suitable for consideration by peer-reviewed journals. Students will present their thesis to the department and the public at a seminar or defense.	The department appoints a graduate advisory committee for each student to evaluate the written and oral presentation of the proposal. The graduate advisory committee evaluates the oral presentation of the thesis and conducts an oral exam on the thesis topic after submission of the written thesis. The graduate advisory committee evaluates the thesis, which is sent to the program Chair and then the Dean after evaluation and approval.
	Students will be competent in the collection of data, quantitative analysis and the use of scientific literature.	Satisfactory completion of courses required by the Graduate Comprehensive Exam Committee and the Graduate Advisory Committee.	Students will complete two courses at the 600 level that include one of the following: Research Design (BIOL/WLF 602), Scientific Writing (BIOL/WLF 604) and Data Analysis in Biology (BIOL/WLF 680).
	Students will complete the MS program in a timely manner.	Time to graduation will be tracked.	Faculty will report the time in program for all graduating MS

*Submitted by: Kris Hundertmark*

			candidates to the Program Chair.
	Students will obtain jobs in the wildlife profession or engage in further graduate study.	Employment outcomes of recent graduates will be monitored.	The College will make available data gathered by polling former students.
	Students will publish their thesis research in peer-reviewed scientific journals and will present their work at professional conferences.	Number of publications and presentations will be tracked.	Faculty advisors will report annually on the thesis-related activities of their students to the Program Chair.