

**UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**  
**Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development**  
**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan Academic Year 2009/2010 RD MA Degree**

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p><b>MISSION STATEMENT:</b></p> <p>Our mission is to strengthen leadership capacity for indigenous communities in Alaska and the circumpolar North through degree programs that promote</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) academic excellence,</li> <li>(2) personal development,</li> <li>(3) professional skills,</li> <li>(4) global awareness,</li> <li>(5) respect for indigenous cultures, and</li> <li>(6) commitment to community</li> </ol> <p>We seek to include a keen awareness of the scope, richness, and variety of Alaska Native cultural heritages, and a series of critical perspectives on the historical and contemporary indigenous experience of all our students.</p> <p><b>GOALS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer a quality program of advanced study for place-committed students in rural Alaska, combining personal networking with cutting-edge distance education delivery.</li> <li>2. Educate leaders with a broad understanding of interrelationships between rural communities and the dynamic global economy.</li> <li>3. Build strong ties to employers and leaders in rural Alaska to support program relevance and student success.</li> <li>4. Make an innovative model for circumpolar graduate study with a particular emphasis on international leadership development accessible to students.</li> </ol>	<p>1) Graduates will be hired in their communities and regions in the fields of rural and community development or will be advanced in their employment status if already employed, or will continue on to further graduate or professional education.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Meets acceptance criteria for the program.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> After one year, employment or promotion in rural/community development, or continuing higher education for 80% or more of MA graduates.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Faculty will evaluate student application and advise as appropriate.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> Director and Academic Program Head will conduct an annual survey of graduates to determine employment status.</p>
	<p>2) Graduates and their employers will express overall satisfaction with course content, and with the program's emphasis on community development, management and administration in indigenous and northern communities.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Employer interests will be identified and monitored through continuing research of the Alaska business environment.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> The program's reputation for quality will be assessed using a survey questionnaire of all graduates and employers of new graduates on an annual basis.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Director and Academic Program Head will conduct an annual survey.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> All faculty will review and assess the outcomes of the survey annually for program planning and development, producing a triennial report.</p>
	<p>3) Graduates in RD will develop capacities for effective oral and written communication including use of best available computer hardware and software. They will use the network built up during their studies to connect with international and national issues and apply their knowledge across the Arctic.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Students will participate in the effective use of written and oral communication, demonstrating capacity through seminar presentations and coursework.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> Completion of RD 698/699 thesis or project. Faculty assessment of student presentations and comprehensive exam results.</p>	<p><b>ENTRY LEVEL:</b> Students will receive intensive instruction in effective oral and written communication, including use of computers, face-to-face seminars and web-based instruction.</p> <p><b>EXIT LEVEL:</b> With the help of grant funding, students will make presentations at conferences and meetings including those in international locations.</p>