

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

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p>MISSION STATEMENT: Our mission is to strengthen leadership capacity for indigenous communities in Alaska and the Circumpolar North through degree programs that promote academic excellence, personal development, professional skills, global awareness, respect for indigenous cultures, and commitment to community.</p> <p>GOALS: 1. Offer a quality program of advanced study for place-committed students in rural Alaska, combining personal networking with cutting-edge distance education delivery. 2. Educate leaders with a broad understanding of interrelationships between rural communities and the dynamic global economy. 3. Maintain an innovative model for circumpolar graduate study with a particular emphasis on international leadership development accessible to students.</p>	<p>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>Graduates are tracked after graduation via surveys and continued contact with DANSRD faculty. Learning communities developed during their studies will be maintained to help with the updates of employment/education status and graduates will be invited to new student orientations and encouraged to participate in classes as guest speakers.</p>	<p>Department administrative staff will administer surveys during spring each year. Faculty will maintain ongoing contact with graduates and involve them in future courses. Grads will be invited as speakers at annual new grad student orientation. Alumni accomplishments will be featured on the DANSRD website.</p>
	<p>Students will demonstrate fluency in the theories and methodologies of rural development.</p>	<p>Fluency will be assessed through comprehensive exams.</p>	<p>Comprehensive exams are reviewed and evaluated by each graduate students committee.</p>
	<p>Students will have general knowledge of issues in Indigenous development, research, and leadership, with an emphasis on Alaska Native cultures.</p>	<p>Fluency will be assessed through comprehensive exams.</p>	<p>Comprehensive exams are reviewed and evaluated by each graduate students committee.</p>
	<p>Students will apply knowledge gained through the RD MA program by developing and completing an applied RD project or thesis.</p>	<p>Project/thesis completed by student.</p>	<p>Graduate advisory committee and outside examiner after oral defense of project or thesis</p>
	<p>Upon completion of the program, graduates in RD will demonstrate leadership 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>Students will participate in the effective use of written and oral communication, demonstrating capacity through seminar presentations and coursework. Committee will provide support for writing of thesis or compilation of project</p>	<p>Assessed via completion of RD 698/699 thesis or project, faculty assessment of student presentations and comprehensive exam results.</p>