

# Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

## *Natural Resources Sustainability, PhD*

SNRE

2017-18

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### 1. Assessment information collected

1) 1 thesis defenses were evaluated by a five-question audience questionnaire

Questions on the defense audience survey utilized a 5-point response scale where 1 = weak and 5 = excellent. A score of  $\geq 4.0$  will be taken as evidence of competence related to the goal. The questionnaire can be found at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/files/provost/SLOA/NaturalResourcesManagementPhDPlan2017.pdf>

2) Graduates were tracked to assess career advancement.

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

2) Thesis defense as evaluated by audience.

Overall, all 5 questions had mean scores  $> 4.0$  (Table 1, Appendix A).

When examining scores across the type of rater, e.g., faculty, staff, student, general public, the only survey item receiving less and 4.0 was supporting material as evaluated by students (Table 2, Appendix A).

2) Tracking of graduates.

Of the two graduates during this period, 1 contact was made; that student is currently a Postdoctoral researcher.

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

No curricular changes were deemed to be necessary. Faculty will be encouraged to work closely with students in developing and practicing presentations.

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

Peter Fix, David Valentine.

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

Yes, the Communication VALUE rubric was included (although we did not have the opportunity to gather data for this report). Oral communication evaluated by those attending defense was also added as an assessment.

## Appendix A: Supporting Data

Table 1. Audience Evaluation of Project Defense Presentations.

Questionnaire topic	Mean score
Topic selection/focus	4.72
Methods & analysis	4.58
Conclusions	4.39
Oral communication	4.64
Supporting material	4.28

n = 18

Table 2. Audience Evaluation of Project Defense Presentations, by Evaluator Classification.

Questionnaire topic	Evaluator Classification				
	Faculty (n = 9)	Staff (n = 2)	Student (n = 3)	Public (n = 1)	Not identified (n = 3)
Topic selection/focus	4.44	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Methods & analysis	4.33	4.75	4.67	5.00	5.00
Conclusions	4.22	4.50	4.33	5.00	4.67
Oral communication	4.67	4.75	4.00	5.00	5.00
Supporting material	4.33	4.00	3.67	5.00	4.67