

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

Natural Resources and Sustainability PhD

SNRE

AYs 14-15 & 15-16

Submitted by: Peter J Fix

Contact Information: pjfix@alaska.edu

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1. **Assessment information collected**

We examined the number of students passing their comprehensive exams. Director of Academic Programs David Valentine conducted an exit interview with one graduating PhD student.

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

Six students successfully completed their written and oral comprehensive exams during the review period. Of those six, one student initially failed their written exam before passing and one student received a conditional pass on their oral exam before passing. Not counted in the six previously mentioned, is a student who passed their written exam and received a conditional pass on their oral exam, but has yet to meet the conditions for a pass.

We interpret the failed exams and conditional passes as evidence of a rigorous comprehensive exam process that also enables graduate committees to provide tailored guidance in order to address knowledge gaps.

The exit interview questions most relevant to learning outcome assessment included "In what ways were your expectations not met?", "Do you feel the NRM degree has prepared you for your post-degree plans (list specific factors)?", and "Are there ways the NRM degree has failed to prepare you for your plans?". We summarize responses to these questions below:

Expectations not met? None; most expectations exceeded. Program was flexible and allowed design of own program.

Prepared for future plans? Yes, calling it a "degree that's known and advertised for". Courses such as Global to Local Sustainability bridged scales; internships with NGOs and government agencies provided opportunities (although US Citizenship requirement posed a problem).

Failed to prepare for plans? International student barriers.

3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

No changes were deemed necessary.

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

David Valentine, Director of Academic Programs; Meriam Karlsson, Chair
Department of Agriculture and Horticulture; Peter Fix, Chair, Department of Natural
Resources Management.