

Appendix 3a. Student learning outcomes assessment plan for the M.S. in Fisheries Science degree program.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose	Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p><b>Mission:</b>We shall provide quality graduate education responsive to the needs of individual students and the diverse population of Alaska.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b>To assure that our graduates are adequately prepared to succeed in the job market in their chosen fisheries field or a closely related field.</p>	<p>1. Be prepared to compete successfully for admission to Ph.D. programs in Fisheries or related aquatic science disciplines.</p>	<p>Students must prepare and defend a proposal for their thesis research; 80% will be successful within 2 years of admission (for outcomes 1-3).</p>	<p>Advisory committee will grade as pass, conditional pass, or fail. Academics Office will track success rate.</p>
	<p>2. Be prepared to compete successfully for mid-level professional career positions in research and management at resource management agencies in Alaska and elsewhere.</p>	<p>Students are required to write a M.S. thesis that reports the results of independent research in some aspect of fisheries science, they are required to orally defend the thesis, and they must present a public presentation of the thesis (all outcomes). 80% of students will be judged by faculty and the program head to have performed at the level of a competent fisheries professional.</p>	<p>At the thesis defense, each faculty member on the Committee will rate the student on a scale of 1-4 on whether he/she has achieved professional level performance in several areas. The program head will review the thesis using similar criteria.</p>
	<p>3. Have excellent oral and written communication skills.</p> <p>4. Obtain mastery of the core knowledge of fishery science.</p> <p>5. Achieve mastery of at least one of the scientific tools of data collection in fisheries science and demonstrate competence in analysis and reporting of that data.</p>	<p>80% of graduates seeking employment in fisheries or aquatic sciences, or admission to another graduate program will succeed within one year of graduation (outcomes 1-3).</p>	<p>Three years after graduation, Fisheries Division staff and the faculty advisor will request that each graduate complete a short alumni questionnaire, addressing their experiences seeking employment or continuing graduate studies. Similar questions will be asked of the student in the exit interview.</p>

		<p>50% of graduates will submit a manuscript based on their MS research to a peer-reviewed scientific journal within 1 year of graduating. 25% of graduates will be first author on a peer-reviewed scientific article within 3 years of graduating (outcomes 3-5).</p>	<p>Three years after graduation, the advisor will be asked whether the students submitted manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, and whether any were published. Similar questions will be asked of the student in the exit interview.</p>
		<p>80% of graduates will be "satisfied" or "very satisfied" overall, with the education they received in the Fisheries Program at UAF (outcomes 1-2)</p>	<p>Upon graduation Fisheries Division staff will give each graduate an exit interview assessing their satisfaction with the program. Three years after graduation, Fisheries Division staff and the faculty advisor will request that each graduate complete a short alumni questionnaire, which will include similar questions.</p>