

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan
Biological Sciences PhD

College of Natural Science and Mathematics

September 2020

MISSION STATEMENT: The Biology and Wildlife Department educates students from diverse backgrounds worldwide about living systems with an emphasis on the circumpolar North by fostering intellectual inquiry, problem solving, and creativity through coursework and research.

GOAL STATEMENT: The Biology and Wildlife Department aims to provide its students a strong foundation in biological knowledge; to empower them through course experiences, research and inquiry to think creatively, flexibly, and critically; and to prepare them to achieve their future educational and professional goals.

Intended Objectives/Outcomes	Assessment Criteria and Procedures	Implementation (what, when, who)
<p>Knowledge New students will have adequate knowledge of the biological sciences.</p> <p>Established students will demonstrate mastery of broad biological concepts and the state of knowledge in their chosen field of study.</p>	<p>1. Students entering the program without an MS degree will pass the PhD Qualifying Exam to demonstrate competence in biology.</p> <p>2. Established students will pass a written and oral comprehensive exam testing biological knowledge related to the student's project.</p>	<p>1. Comprehensive Exam Committee and Graduate Advisory Committee members will administer the PhD Qualifying Exam during the first semester.</p> <p>2. The Graduate Student Advisory Committee will administer the comprehensive exam, typically within the first 2 years of study.</p>
<p>Communication of Science Students will make substantial and original contributions to scientific knowledge in their field of study, which will be communicated in oral and written form.</p>	<p>1. Students will write a dissertation, publically present the work, and defend their thesis in an exam setting.</p> <p>2. Students will publish papersmake presentations at professional meetings, and write successful grant proposals.</p>	<p>1. Graduate Student Advisory Committee will evaluate the student's work; Department Chair and office staff will monitor student progress.</p> <p>2. Students report annually information about papers published, presentations given, and grant proposals submitted to the Department Chair. Office staff will compile information annually and the Chair will review.</p>
<p>Occupation Students will obtain employment in their chosen field, continue on to further education, or otherwise meet personal objectives for completing the degree.</p>	<p>Professional activities of former graduate students will be tracked.</p>	<p>Department Chair and office staff will compile and review information bi-annually.</p>