Graduate Degree Program Outcomes

Graduate Learning Outcomes for the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (ESGP)

The primary mission of the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program is to foster the development of highly skilled environmental scientists who are well-prepared to:

- Analyze and understand the nature of environmental systems and interactions at the natural-human systems interface,
- Predict environmental change, and
- Effectively collaborate in the interdisciplinary field of environmental sciences and management.

Upon completing their Environmental Sciences graduate degrees, our doctoral students will be successfully prepared to conduct research in national and international research laboratories, field stations, universities, as well as institutes and corporations in the private sector. Our master’s graduates are well-prepared for careers with federal, state, and local government agencies that are charged with research and management of environmental resources. Students completing the Professional Sciences Master’s (PSM) in Environmental Sciences will also find employment opportunities in the private sector with productive careers in industry and consulting.

Graduate Learning Outcomes provide metrics and guidelines to assess a student’s progress toward achieving core competency in their field of study. Overarching Graduate Learning Outcomes for doctoral and master’s programs were proposed by the Graduate Council and approved by the Faculty Senate on Jan 13, 2011 (doctoral) and April 14, 2011 (master’s). As approved by Faculty Senate and adopted by the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program, the student shall:

1. Produce and defend an original significant contribution to knowledge (PhD); Conduct research or produce some other form of creative work (M.S., M.A., PSM);
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject material (Ph.D., M.S., M.A., PSM); and
3. Be able to conduct scholarly activities in an ethical manner (Ph.D., M.S., M.A., PSM).
To meet the primary Program goals described above, the Environmental Sciences Graduate Program has also adopted the following program-specific Graduate Learning Outcomes. The student shall:

1. Effectively communicate their field of study;
2. Think critically and creatively to solve interdisciplinary problems within their area of concentration; and
3. Demonstrate attributes of professional development consistent with expectations within their area of concentration

University and program-specific Graduate Learning Outcomes are assessed at the program level. Outcomes are measured by the program, beginning with the admissions process and continuing throughout a student’s graduate studies, based on the evaluation of coursework performance, program of study development, adherence toward timelines, and completion of milestone events. Further details are provided in Table 1. Graduate Learning Outcome Assessment for ESGP available at [http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/sites/gradschool.oregonstate.edu/files/envsci-glostable.pdf](http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/sites/gradschool.oregonstate.edu/files/envsci-glostable.pdf)