

# Assessment: Assessment Plan

## Degree Program - AS - Geosciences (PHD)

**CIP Code:** 40.0601.00

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**Modality:** Face-to-Face

### Student Learning Outcome: Original Research

Students will have conducted a significant piece of original research

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Outcome Type:** Student Learning

**Start Date:** 08/24/2015

#### Assessment Methods

**Professional Development Activities** - Each committee member will rate the Dissertation Proposal on the following criteria: appropriateness of methods used.

- Professionally done: The methods used in the research are advancing the discipline
- Well done: The methods used in the research are widely used by professionals for similar purposes
- Acceptable: The methods used in the research are adequate for the study
- Unacceptable: The methods used in the research are inappropriate for the study (Active)

**Criterion:** >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

**Dissertation** - Each committee member will rate the dissertation on the following criteria: scientific contribution of the work.

- Professionally done: The research is equal in quality to that published in leading journals
- Well done: The research is equal in quality to that published in second-tier journals
- Acceptable: The research is reasonably done, but not publishable in a journal
- Unacceptable: The research was poorly done (Active)

**Criterion:** 80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

### Student Learning Outcome: Effective Communication

Students can communicate effectively in written form

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Outcome Type:** Student Learning

**Start Date:** 08/24/2015

#### Assessment Methods

**Dissertation** - Each committee member will rate the dissertation for writing quality.

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- Professionally done: The methods used in the research are advancing the discipline
- Well done: The methods used in the research are widely used by professionals for similar purposes
- Acceptable: The methods used in the research are adequate for the study
- Unacceptable: The methods used in the research are inappropriate for the study

(Active)

**Criterion:** >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

**Dissertation** - Each committee member will rate the dissertation defense for oral communication ability.

- Professionally done: The oral defense of the thesis is equal to papers presented by top scientists
- Well done: The oral defense of the thesis is high quality, but not quite at professional standards
- Acceptable: The oral defense of the thesis meets basic standards for organization and clarity
- Unacceptable: The oral defense of the thesis is unacceptable for organization and clarity

(Active)

**Criterion:** >80% of students receive ratings of 'Professionally Done' or 'Well Done.'

## Student Learning Outcome: Breadth of knowledge

Students have demonstrated a thorough fundamental knowledge of topics in Geosciences

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Outcome Type:** Student Learning

**Start Date:** 08/24/2015

### Assessment Methods

**Qualifying Exam** - Each Committee member will rate the qualifying exam.

- Holistic understanding: The student has demonstrated exceptional understanding of the course material, including critical linkages with the current state of research in the discipline, and has further successfully integrated concepts from other coursework to broaden understanding.
- Thorough understanding: The student has demonstrated a solid understanding of all of the course material, but has not extrapolated that understanding beyond the confines of the course.
- Adequate understanding: The student has demonstrated adequate understanding of most of the course curriculum, but has demonstrated struggles with portions of the material.
- Unacceptable: The student has not demonstrated an adequate understanding of the course material.

(Active)

**Criterion:** >80% of students receive ratings of 'Holistic Understanding' or 'Thorough Understanding.'

**Course Level Assessment** - The Instructor of one required course will rate the comprehensive performance of students using papers, exams, and assignments.

- Holistic understanding: The student has demonstrated exceptional understanding of the course material, including critical linkages with the current state of research in the discipline, and has further successfully integrated concepts from other coursework to broaden understanding.
- Thorough understanding: The student has demonstrated a solid understanding of all of the course material, but has not extrapolated that understanding beyond the confines of the course.

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-Adequate understanding: The student has demonstrated adequate understanding of most of the course curriculum, but has demonstrated struggles with portions of the material.

-Unacceptable: The student has not demonstrated an adequate understanding of the course material.

(Active)

**Criterion:** >80% of students receive ratings of 'Holistic Understanding' or 'Thorough Understanding.'