

M.S. in Geology Student Outcomes Assessment Report
2015-2016 Academic Year Results

Assessment Committee
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
California State University

1 Learning outcome assessed

For the 2015-2016 academic year, the Geology M.S. SOAP required assessment of Outcome C (“Students will effectively disseminate technical findings and conclusions by means of written reports, and organize and give professional oral presentations.”). Also, the SOAP called for examining exit interviews.

2 Instruments used to assess the outcomes

To assess Outcome C, students will produce a thesis defense that will be presented to all willing to attend. All faculty present will fill out evaluation forms, which are collected and summarized by the assessment coordinator.

The department expects a mean score for each section evaluated on the rubric (i.e., Content, Presentation and Visuals) >3.0 out of 5 points when all student scores are averaged.

An online exit interview was sent this year and the replies of 2 respondents were analyzed.

3 Results of assessment

3.1 Thesis defense

The thesis defenses of 6 students were analyzed and scores assigned by faculty were used to create the table below.

Criterion	Maximum score
Content	5
Presentation	5
Visual	5
Total	15

Upon tallying all the scores given by the instructors present at the thesis defense presentations,, averages were calculated as shown below.

Criterion	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4	Student 5	Student 6
Content	3.9	4.4	4.3	3.6	4.0	3.7
Presentation	4.5	4.6	4.50	4.3	4.7	4.4
Visuals	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.5	3.8
Total	12.9	13.4	13.1	12.3	13.2	12.0

Students from the geology masters program scored high on all criteria. A closer look at the scoring distribution within the sub-categories of each criterion shows no particular deficiency amongst the students.

As stated in the SOAP, the department expects a mean score for each criteria >3.0 when all student scores are averaged. This goal has been met by each and every criterion (data available upon request). Thus, the faculty consider that Outcome C has been met.

3.2 Student exit interviews

Student exit interviews were collected from 1 student this year with questions and responses which suggest relative satisfaction with the degree program. Students were asked to ranked their answers from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Several comments and facts demonstrating overall student satisfaction are below;

- To the question “I was able to obtain instruction (courses) in subjects that I am interested in,” the mean value was 5 (1 respondent).
- To the question “I was able to obtain instruction (courses) that I need to advance my future career,” the mean value was 5 (1 respondent).
- To the question “I was able to obtain the knowledge and training from the courses that will help me advance my career objective,” the mean value was 2 (1 respondent).
- To the question “The program in general met my expectation,” the mean value was 3 (1 respondent).
- To the question “I was intellectually challenged by the teaching of the faculty,” the mean value was 5 (1 respondent).
- To the question “The graduate faculty of the department is active and up-to-date in their fields of expertise.,” the mean value was 5 (1 respondent).
- To the question “My advisor was a good mentor,” the mean value was 5 (1 respondent).
- To the question “Your graduate education experience is...”, the mean value was 4 (1 respondent).

The only comment pointing toward an unsatisfactory part of the graduate experience concerns the research facilities of the Department that are not adequate and well maintained.

4 Changes made as a results of the findings

Based upon the assessment of EES 201, no further action is necessary as the goal for Outcome C was met.

Based upon feedback from student responses to exit interview questions, no further action is necessary as there appears to be satisfaction with the Masters in Geology Degree Program.

5 Future assessment activities in the 2016-17 academic year

In 2016-17, we will evaluate Outcome A (Students will demonstrate the application of inductive and deductive methods of reasoning, the use of geological and geophysical data for interpretation, and how to arrive at valid, defensible conclusions. Students will demonstrate their ability to conduct background studies using published scientific research) again to get as much data as possible since our pool of graduate students is rather small each year, and Outcome B (Use the scientific method to organize and conduct research, and apply quantitative methods to solve problems, analyze data and formulate models, either independently or collaboratively), perform another set of exit interviews and conduct an alumni survey.

6 M.S. in Geology Action Plan Progress

No progress.