

Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Geology	M.S.
(Name of Academic Degree Program)	(Degree Level)
Randall Spencer	2000-2001
(Completed by:)	(Academic Year)
Graduate Program Director	
(Title)	

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: *In this section, please provide a statement that demonstrates how your program relates to your college's or division's statement of institutional purpose and, through the college or division, to Old Dominion University's mission and goals.*

Institutional Mission Reference: The Geology M.S. Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in geological sciences that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Geology M.S. Program supports the University's mission of providing advanced professional education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported: The Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences supports the University mission through its efforts to seek new knowledge and to use all knowledge toward the solution of societal problems as well as to disseminate this knowledge, through the venues of teaching and service, to the public in an effort to further their understanding and appreciation of the physical world in which they live and the complexity of local to global problems which confront humanity.

Please provide Intended (Student) Outcomes for your program, Methods for Assessment, and Criteria for Success for each Intended Outcome in appropriate boxes below. *(There should be a minimum of 3 Intended Outcomes and maximum of 10, with 3 to 5 outcomes being typical.)*

Intended Outcome 1: Gain an in-depth knowledge in one or more specialized areas

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Students must successfully complete the Master's oral or written examination, depending on whether the student has selected the thesis or non-thesis option.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success *(NOTE: Alternate methods are optional):*
Track student grades and other performance measures in order to evaluate the students' background.

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Intended Outcome 2: Be able to identify problems in geoscience and to develop solutions

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Student must pass either the written Master's examination and acceptance of the students research topic, if a non-thesis option is selected, or the oral examination and acceptance of the students thesis, if a thesis option is selected, both of which are administered by relevant department faculty.

Intended Outcome 3: Students must demonstrate effective oral and written communication of scientific information.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: A student selecting the thesis option must successfully complete a written Master thesis and must successfully present this information either to a body of colleagues at a departmental seminar or to a body of peers at a professional meeting.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): A student selecting a non-thesis option must successfully complete a written research report and must successfully present this information to a body of colleagues at a department seminar or to a body of peers at a professional meeting.

Intended Outcome 4: Students must develop breadth of knowledge in oceanography.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: A student taking the non-thesis option must pass a written comprehensive examination (administered by the GPD and four other department faculty). 90% (or more) of students will pass this examination on their first attempt (only two attempts are allowed).