

Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Oceanography		M.S.
(Name of Academic Degree Program)		(Degree Level)
David Burdige	Graduate Program Director	2000-2001
(Completed by:)	(Title)	(Academic Year)

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 Oceanography M.S. Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in oceanography that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Oceanography 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: Students will acquire basic knowledge in the four sub-disciplines of oceanography (physical, chemical, biological and geological oceanography).

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: All students must achieve a "B" (3.0) average or better in the four core courses (OCEN 604, 610, 620 and 640). 75% (or more) of students will achieve this GPA without having to repeat any of the core courses.

Intended Outcome 2: Students will effectively communicate scientific information through writing.

Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: A student taking the thesis option must successfully complete a written master's thesis that is approved by their thesis committee.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): A student taking the non-thesis option must pass a written comprehensive examination (administered by the GPD and four other department faculty) testing breadth of knowledge in oceanography.

Intended Outcome 3: Students will effectively synthesize and communicate scientific information orally.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: A student taking the non-thesis option must successfully complete OCEN 691 (Seminar).

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): A student taking the thesis option must successfully present their masters thesis research in a public thesis defense.

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).