

Doctor of Philosophy-Oceanography Ph.D.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Oceanography Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. 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 & 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 the 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.

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

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.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: Most of the students have completed the core courses with a 3.0 average. Only a few (2) will have to repeat a course.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will effectively communicate scientific information through writing.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: A student must successfully complete a written doctoral dissertation that is approved by their dissertation committee.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: Students continue to write and successfully defend their dissertations.

Intended Outcome 3

Students will effectively synthesize and communicate scientific information orally.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: A student must successfully defend their doctoral dissertation in a public defense.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: Students continue to successfully defend their doctoral dissertation in a public defense.

Intended Outcome 4

Students must develop breadth of knowledge in oceanography.

Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success: A student must pass a candidacy examination (administered by their Guidance Committee). 90% (or more) of students will pass this examination on their first attempt (only two attempts are allowed).

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4: Most students pass this examination on their first attempt.