

MS in Natural Sciences Degree

<p>Learning Outcome</p> <p><i>What should a graduate in this major know, value, or be able to do at graduation and beyond?</i></p>	<p>Data Collection and Analysis</p> <p><i>What assessment tools and/or methods will you use to determine achievement of the learning outcome? Describe how the data from these tools and/or methods will be collected. Explain the procedure to analyze the data.</i></p>	<p>Results of Evaluation</p> <p><i>What were the findings of the Analysis Team? List any specific recommendations.</i></p>	<p>Use of Evaluation Results</p> <p><i>What changes in curriculum, courses, or procedures were made as a result of the program learning outcome assessment process?</i></p>
<p>Students should be able to identify and apply the basic concepts taught in courses taken to satisfy degree requirements.</p>	<p>A comprehensive oral final exam is given as part of graduation requirements for the biology option. Done by committee, this exam tests knowledge of advanced scientific principles as well as educational concepts for students who are certified teachers,</p>	<p>Performance on the oral exam is evaluated to identify areas of weakness as well as strengths.</p>	<p>Results of the oral exam are partly used to recommend changes in graduate curricula for future biology option MSNS students.</p>
<p>Students should be able to analyze scientific data, develop hypotheses, interpret experimental results, draw conclusions, and present outcomes to an audience.</p>	<p>Most physical science option MSNS students engage in individual laboratory research studies. Such students are strongly encourage to present research results to regional or national meetings of scientific societies. Some submit articles to journals for publication.</p>	<p>Evaluation by involved faculty members have critiqued student performance. Evaluation is done on an individual basis involving all faculty who have overseen the projects.</p>	<p>Performance on research-based projects is used as a basis to develop more suitable projects for future students. Projects may be continued by faculty, and future students participate to develop research activities that build on previous student/faculty projects.</p>