2012-2013 Assessment Report
Program: Natural Resources Management, BS

School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

Natural Resources Management, BS

Expected Outcome 1. Understand Research Design and Data Collection
Students will develop skills with both theoretical and applied tools used in the conservation and management of natural resources.

Assessment Method 1: Faculty evaluation

Assessment Method Description
Faculty evaluation of student preparedness in a series of courses designed to provide theoretical and applied tools in natural resources management. Courses for faculty evaluation include FOWS 2010 Environmental Interpretation, FOWS 2020 natural Resources Sampling Techniques, FORY 5470 GIS Application in Natural Resources and FORY 5480 GIS Database Design and Analysis. A short survey on student preparedness and ability to use theoretical and applied tools will be developed and faculty of these courses will be asked to complete the survey at the end of each course.

Findings
None to date. The Natural Resources Management degree is relatively new and through Spring of 2013 there has been only 1 graduate from the program. The assessment instruments described in this document will be applied as students progress through the curriculum.

How did you use findings for improvement?
As yet, there is insufficient data available to consider making modifications to the curriculum.
Additional Comments

The courses used for faculty evaluation of skills with theoretical and applied tools will be evaluated in conjunction with the *Student exit surveys and employer input* of objective 3 (below) to ensure that the most important skills are being assessed.

**Expected Outcome 2. Understand Social and Natural Systems and their Interactions**

Students will attain a broad perspective of the societal (ethical, economic, political, cultural, sociological, psychological) and natural systems (ecology, wildlife, water, spatial) dynamics and their interactions as they relate to natural resources conservation and management.

**Assessment Method 1:** Faculty evaluation

**Assessment Method Description**

Faculty evaluation of student preparedness for upper level interdisciplinary courses that require a foundation in both social and natural sciences and student ability to synthesize information from each. Courses for faculty evaluation include FOWS 5320 Environmental Services and FOWS 5270 Natural Resource Philosophy and Policy. A short survey on student preparedness and ability to synthesize information will be developed and faculty of these courses will be asked to complete the survey at the end of each course.

**Findings**

None to date.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

**Additional Comments**

The two courses are similar to capstone courses offered in many departments in that they require students to build upon knowledge developed throughout the curriculum.
Expected Outcome 3. Students will be prepared for the work force
Students will develop the comprehensive knowledge necessary to compete in the broad natural resources workforce.

Assessment Method 1: Student entrance and exit surveys and employer input.

Assessment Method Description
Currently there is no entry or exit survey for NRM students. To remedy this situation, both surveys will be developed. An entry survey will be developed to understand student employment desires, course topic interests, interests in minors, and how the students heard about the degree. An exit survey that covers information regarding student’s opinions of the major, available minors, instructors, courses in the major, and facilities will be developed. A second part of the exit survey will additionally include information on jobs obtained by graduating seniors, their employer and salary. Employers will be approached at yearly advisory board meetings and asked to identify the knowledge, skills, coursework and experiences they desire students to have. An alumni survey will be developed and administered every five years that focuses specifically on the second part of the exit survey to monitor employment and salary changes.

Findings

How did you use findings for improvement?

Additional Comments
The Natural Resources Management major coursework and content was originally designed to achieve the knowledge, skills, coursework and experiences outlined in a number of job search listings of posts related to natural resources. Four new minors were developed in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences based on expertise in the department and interests of students.