Student Learning Outcomes:

Graduates should be proficient in one of four subdisciplines – physical, chemical, geological, or biological oceanography. They should be able to compete successfully in their respective subdiscipline of oceanography.

The SLOs are published on the department web page (http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography) and in our departmental brochure.

How SLOs map onto our curriculum:

All degrees require independent research as well as basic and specialized courses. All advanced degree students must take three core courses and at least one advanced course outside of their subdiscipline, in addition to the specific requirements of their major discipline. Both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees require a minimum of 36 semester credit hours, including 24 credits of course work and 12 credits of thesis or dissertation research, demonstrated competence in computer programming, and 30 days of field experience.

Population(s) covered by assessment(s)

All MS. And Ph.D. students are assessed by the methods listed below.

Assessment events and devices:

All Students:

1. Newly admitted students are assigned an Advisory Committee by the Department Chair. This committee is in effect until a formal M.S. Thesis or Ph.D. Dissertation Committee is formed and assumes all of the responsibilities of the former Advisory Committee. All committees should meet at least once per semester and a formal written report, signed by all committee members and the student, is submitted to the Department Chair for inclusion in the student’s academic file.

2. Students must average at least 3.0 in the core courses (as well as overall) in order to graduate from the department. Course evaluations

3. All beginning second-year students present their research plans and progress to the department in a symposium-style public lecture.

For M.S students:
4. A final oral examination covering the thesis and related areas is required. After a period of presentation and questioning open to all students and faculty, the committee examines the candidate in private. A majority of the committee is needed for both the oral examination and final thesis.

For Ph.D. students:

5. A Ph.D. Qualifying Exam (PQE) is administered within 18 months of acceptance into the program. The exam is verbal, with the option of an additional written component. The committee is charged with evaluating the student’s readiness for independent research at the doctoral level and issues an approval or denial of admission to candidacy.

6. Within 18 months of the PQE, students must take the Comprehensive Examination with may be oral or a combination of oral and written. The purpose of the examination is to determine whether the student has a high level of competence in the general area of his/her proposed research, including both the major field of study and any appropriate other field.

7. A final oral examination is conducted in the same manner as the M.S. thesis defense.

**Contribution to our discipline/academic area:**

Many of our students attend national meetings. They publish papers during their studies; many have two to three papers published when they graduate. These papers are often co-authored by their advisor and/or fellow students.

**Monitoring of student post-graduate professional activities:**

Our graduate students are encouraged to keep us informed of their current addresses and professional activities. An email to all graduates, current faculty, staff and students is sent periodically for updates on the graduates. We are currently looking into adding a page on our website for such updates.