

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

Forestry

(Instructional Degree Program)

B.S.

(Degree Level)

Program Mission:

Forestry is the application of scientific principles to the management of forest resources, including non-wood products. The mission of the Forestry Program at NMHU is to provide students the skills needed to excel in a natural resources management field

Student Learning Outcome 1:

Effectively describe the process of scientific inquiry.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Score of 70% on class final examinations emphasizing the scientific method (FOR 416—Soil Science). The program goal will be considered met if the percentage of students meeting this criteria is greater than 80%.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	10	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	11	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	91%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

The results of Outcome 4 demonstrate forestry is meeting its program goals for this outcome. It reflects the ability of students to integrate a variety of subjects and skills to create a final project that meets high professional standards.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Effectively communicate scientific ideas, information, and results, both verbally and in writing, that (1) demonstrate consistent logic; (2) are well organized; (3) state and defend a thesis; and (4) demonstrate competent use of language.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2

- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Score of at least 70% in For 305, Natural Resource Economics. The program goal will be considered met if the percentage of students meeting this criteria is greater than 80%.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	14	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	3
Total Number of Students Assessed:	17	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	82%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

Natural Resource Economics requires extensive problem solving and critical analysis of complicated resource valuation issues. In addition, the course requires regular presentations of analysis. The results for this outcome measure shows that the program is meeting its goal of developing a variety of communication and analytical skills in our students.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Effective use of technology by competently using appropriate tools from geology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics to solve discipline-specific problems.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

- Effective Use of Technology

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

• Demonstrated competence in using forest measuring instruments in a field based course (FOR 200- Field Practices). The program goal will be considered met if the percentage of students meeting this criteria is greater than 90%.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	7	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	7	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

The high number of students meeting this criterion reflects their proficiency using forestry measurement tools and advanced measurement technologies. These high success rates indicate that the program is meeting its goal of training students to use state of the art forest measurement technology.

Student Learning Outcome 4:

Mastery of Forestry knowledge and skills

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

Completion of the senior capstone course with a grade C or better. The program goal for this outcome is a passing score for 80% of students initiating this course.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	10	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	90%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:

The results for this academic year fall short of our goal of 100% completion of the capstone project. This is the final class of the program. Failure to pass this class results in a student not graduating that semester.

Utilization of Results:

(Indicate your plans for using the results in this report to improve your program. All programs are required to complete this section.)

These outcome results suggest the program is meeting its goals. Some outcomes assessment measures may need to be reconsidered to more accurately identify weaknesses in the program and preparation of students. Revisions to the Outcomes Assessment should closely reflect the content and skills areas assessed by the Society of American Foresters as well as NMHU. Future assessment should take into consideration more project/research based experiences as well as either job placement in their field or application to graduate school.