

**Assessment Plan  
(2018-2019 Academic Year)**

**Natural Sciences**

(Instructional Degree Program)

**M.S.**

(Degree Level)

**Environmental Science and Management**

(Concentration)

**Program Mission:**

The mission of the M.S. Natural Sciences - Environmental Science and Management Concentration is to provide students with pre-professional and post-graduate education in environmental science and management, including engagement in graduate-level coursework, practice in teaching undergraduate biology, forestry, and geology laboratory sections, and participation in thesis research.

**Student Learning Outcome 1:**

Competency in graduate level coursework.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA for graduate level coursework.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Competency in teaching assistantship.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2:**

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

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

Success in delivering lab introductions, grading and returning student materials, maintaining office hours, and making meaningful contributions to laboratory sections, as reported by faculty instructors.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Progress and proficiency in thesis research, including the design, execution, and defense of a thesis project.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3:**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:**

Writing of a thesis proposal, defense of the thesis proposal, and progress in the thesis research as reported by graduate thesis advisors.

**Student Learning Outcome 4:**

Successful completion of a Master's thesis within a 3-year (6-semester) timeframe.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4:**

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

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:**

Students graduate within three years (six semesters) of beginning their program.

**Utilization of Results:****Changes to Program Based on Results:****Retention Strategies:**