

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

Natural Sciences

(Instructional Degree Program)

M.S.

(Degree Level)

Geology

(Concentration)

Program Mission:

The mission of the M.S. Natural Sciences - Geology Concentration is to provide students with pre-professional and post-graduate education in geology, including engagement in graduate-level coursework, practice in teaching undergraduate 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:**