

Academic Assessment Plan
Ph.D. degree program in Environmental Dynamics (ENDYPH)
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Program Goals

(Program goals are broad general statements of what the program intends to accomplish and describes what a student will be able to do after completing the program. The program goals are linked to the mission of the university and college.)

1. Graduates will display a comprehension of the dynamic aspects of the complex human social-physical environmental system through active scholarship in its study;
2. Graduates will be leaders in promoting broader societal understanding of environmental dynamics and its relevance to achieving a sustainable civilization;
3. Graduates will obtain career-oriented employment as practitioners, scholars, or theorists in environmental dynamics providing service to the pursuit of knowledge in Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

Student Learning Outcomes

(Student Learning Outcomes are defined in terms of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students will know and be able to do as a result of completing a program. These student learning outcomes are directly linked to the accomplishment of the program goals.)

1. Successful completion of 24 hours of post-master's graduate level coursework with 12 hours of required courses covering foundational principles of environmental dynamics to include developing understanding of processes evident in the physical environment of Earth, understanding to the temporal domain of Earth history and the evolution of the human social-environmental system, and current issues facing humanity and sustainability of civilization. An additional 12 hours of elective courses approved by academic committee to enhance analytical and cognitive skills of the student. The overall GPA for all coursework must be at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
2. Successful completion of 18 hours of dissertation credit;
3. Successful completion of ENDY Colloquium (ENDY 6991) during each of first three semesters in the ENDYPH program;
4. Successful completion of written and oral qualifying examinations as a prerequisite to candidacy for the doctoral degree;
5. Successful completion and defense of a doctoral dissertation representing an original contribution to knowledge in the field of environmental dynamics.

Assessment of Student Learning

(A process must be defined and documented to regularly assess student learning and achievement of student learning outcomes. The results of the assessment must be utilized as input for the improvement of the program.)

1. Successful completion of required courses (Student Learning Outcome 1, 3)
2. Maintain minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (Student Learning Outcome 1, 3)

3. Complete a minimum of six hours (with a GA) or 9 hours (without a GA) each semester (Student Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3)
4. Successfully complete the written candidacy exams, with an oral defense of the dissertation proposal (Student Learning Outcome 4)
5. Enroll for at least one hour every semester after passing candidacy exams (Student Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3)
6. Write, defend and submit an approved dissertation. (Student Learning Outcome 5)

Timelines for Data Collection and Analysis

(Specific timeline for collection and analysis of assessment data.)

- A. First Semester: Student enters program, enrolls in required courses, establishes advisory committee.
- B. Second Semester: Student completes required coursework, establishes comprehensive exam committee, initiates planning for comprehensive written and oral qualifying exams, annual review of student progress completed and submitted to program director;
- C. Third Semester: Student initiates elective coursework, student plans comprehensive written and oral qualifying exams in consultation with comprehensive exam committee; qualifying exams should be completed during 3rd or 4th semester in program, student organizes dissertation committee;
- D. Fourth Semester: Student completes comprehensive written and oral qualifying exams (if not already completed) and advances to candidacy for the degree, continues with elective coursework, initiates dissertation research, student meets at least once during semester with dissertation committee, completes annual review of student progress;
- E. Fifth Semester: Student continues dissertation research and completes up to 6 hours of dissertation credit, at least one meeting during semester with dissertation committee;
- F. Sixth Semester: Student continues dissertation research and completes up to 6 hours of dissertation credit, at least one meeting during semester with dissertation committee, completes annual review of student progress, possibility of graduation in this semester;
- G. Seventh Semester: Student continues dissertation research and completes up to 6 hours of dissertation credit, at least one meeting during semester with dissertation committee, possibility of graduation in this semester;
- H. Eighth Semester: Student continues dissertation research and completes up to 6 hours of dissertation credit, at least one meeting during semester with dissertation committee, completes annual review of student progress, possibility of graduation in this semester.

Use of Results

Significant milestones of progress are reported to the Graduate School as required by submitting appropriate notifications and forms. Annual reports of student progress are submitted to the Graduate School. The program's annual report to the Graduate School documents the overall progress of the program. Student performance as determined by the assessment is used to inform program changes.

ENDY Annual Assessment of Students 2015-2016

ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL BY SEMESTER OF ENROLLMENT	# STUDENTS (# ACCEPTABLE PROGRESS)
1. Successful completion of required courses (Student Learning Outcome 1, 3). How many students met this goal in 2015-16, with the minimum GPA in #2?	4
2. Maintain minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (Student Learning Outcome 1, 3).	30
3. Complete a minimum of six hours (with a GA) or 9 hours (without a GA) each semester (Student Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3). How many students met this goal in 2015-16?	21
4. Successfully complete the written candidacy exams, with an oral defense of the dissertation proposal (Student Learning Outcome). How many students met this goal in 2015-16?	5
5. Enroll for at least one hour every semester after passing candidacy exams (Student Learning Outcome 1, 2, 3). How many students passed candidacy in 2015-16?	17
6. Write, defend and submit an approved dissertation. (Student Learning Outcome). How many graduated in 2015-16?	6