

Annual Academic Assessment Report

Space and Planetary Sciences (SPAC)

May 20, 2025

A. Results of analysis of assessment of Student Learning Outcome

Direct Methods

1. Successful completion of doctoral qualifying exams (1 student)
2. Presentation and defense of thesis at the Masters level (1 student) and dissertation at the Doctoral level (0).
3. Submission of completed theses (1 student) and doctoral dissertations (0) to the Graduate School.

Indirect Methods

1. Placement rates of graduates into appropriate career positions: 1 students.
2. Placement rates of graduates into post-doctoral positions: 1 students.
3. Student presentations at conferences and workshops: 17 total presentations, involving 12 students.
4. Publication of student research in peer reviewed scientific journals: 2 papers by 2 students.
5. Honors awards, Fellowships, Scholarships: 3 students, 3 total awards, including 1 NASA FINESST Fellowship.

B. Changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis

We plan to create a non-thesis Master's degree option for students seeking broad knowledge in planetary science with coursework beyond the usual Master's requirements. This option may be more attractive to persons currently working in industry or at research facilities.

C. Changes to the assessment process made or planned.

We plan to add results from our Annual Student Review process to our diagnostics.