



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES- NATURAL SCIENCES

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to prepare students to engage with a complex, dynamic, and interdependent world by:

- Providing them with in-depth knowledge about human cultures and the physical world;
- Fostering intellectual and practical skills that enable analysis of spatial patterns and processes, evidenced-based problem solving, and effective oral and written communication; and
- Encouraging a sense of social responsibility through the examination of real-world cases.

Faculty are committed to preparing students for employment opportunities in the private and public sectors, the pursuit of graduate degrees, and to develop meaningful relationships to their university, professional, and local communities. We meet these goals through classroom lecture and discussion, collaborative assignments, undergraduate research, internships, field courses, and travel abroad.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in Environmental Sciences- Natural Sciences will meet the following student learning outcomes:

- Have knowledge of significant current and historical environmental issues at the regional, national, and global scales, and be able to describe the origins, drivers, and implications of each from both scientific and social perspectives;

- Be proficient at a broad range of skills and techniques needed to collect, analyze, and disseminate information related to contemporary environmental problems. Students will be able to demonstrate an advanced understanding of research techniques in their chosen field;
- Be properly prepared for success in the 21st Century following the LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (AAC&U, 2011):
 - Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
 - Intellectual and Practical Skills
 - Personal and Social Responsibility
 - Integrative and Applied Learning;
- Understand the scientific method and the basic principles of ecology at the population, community and ecosystem levels;
- Understand how humans have impacted biodiversity through biological, chemical, and physical changes to aquatic and terrestrial environments; and
- Appreciate the importance of recognizing what constitutes normal biological variation in properly addressing environmental impacts.