

EXAMPLE Methods for Assessing
Based on the GFEC approved learning goals

This document provides several example methods for assessing graduate-level learning goals. These examples are based on the language of the Master’s and Doctoral level learning goals approved by GFEC. Please utilize these ideas to initiate a discussion of ways in which your department could potentially evaluate the particular learning goals you have established for your students.

Master’s Level
Knowledge and Skills

GFEC Masters Learning Goal	Example Methods of Assessment
<p>Articulates, critiques, or elaborates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry or schools of practice in the field of study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students teaching a course within the department will be observed by a faculty member and have that class presentation evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). • Students will successfully complete a written comprehensive examination after coursework is complete and prior to proposing research. Questions and writing prompts pertaining to the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry in the field will be identified. Responses will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). • Students will respond to questions on course evaluations providing their perception of how well they understand theories, research methods and approaches to inquiry in the field of study (indirect measure).
<p>Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will successfully complete a written comprehensive examination. Questions and writing prompts pertaining to established research in the field will be identified. Responses will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). • During the thesis proposal stage, students will successfully present and defend the “Literature Review” portion of the Master’s thesis. Presentation content and quality will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). • Throughout their study, graduate students will respond to questions (institutional and college level surveys) providing their perception of their ability to utilize library and other electronic resources (indirect measure).
<p>Demonstrates understanding of the primary field of study in a historical, social, or global context.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will successfully complete a written comprehensive examination. Questions and writing prompts pertaining to historical, social, and global context will be identified. Responses will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).

GFEC Masters Learning Goal	Example Methods of Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student enrolled in the program's seminar course will respond to select embedded questions on projects/examinations. Responses will be analyzed and collectively reported (direct measure).
<p>Selects and/or utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will successfully complete a Master's thesis. The thesis advisor will evaluate the student's process of selecting a method with which to complete their research (direct method). Students involved in laboratory research will successfully complete training/orientation sessions geared toward the appropriate practices and use of methods (indirect method).
<p>Evaluates or synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will successfully complete a Master's thesis. The thesis committee will evaluate the written document using a rubric (direct measure). Throughout their study, graduate students will respond to questions (institutional and college level surveys) providing their perceived comfort level with evaluating and synthesizing information in the field (indirect measure).
<p>Communicates clearly in ways appropriate to the field of study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students teaching a course within the department will be observed by a faculty member and have that class presentation evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). Upon presentation of the thesis topic each committee member will evaluate the proposed work using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure). Students involved in laboratory research will provide the required laboratory notes/documentation to their supervising faculty member. The supervising faculty member will rate the student's ability to communicate clearly in the laboratory environment (direct measure).

Professional Conduct

<p>Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty thesis advisors will monitor student proposals of thesis research and note issues that students have with IRB application and compliance. Information on these issues will be compiled and reported (direct measure). Students will successfully complete Teaching Assistant (TA) training (indirect measure). Academic staff members will monitor reports of academic misconduct committed by students in the degree program (indirect measure).
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Doctoral Level

Knowledge and Skills

GFEC Doctoral Learning Goal	Example Methods of Assessment
Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, or practice within the field of study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon presentation of the dissertation topic each committee member will evaluate the proposed work using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).• Students teaching a course within the department will be observed by a faculty member and have that class presentation evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).• Students teaching a course within the department will be evaluated through the use of course evaluations completed in reference to their student teaching (direct measure).
Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within the field of study.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will successfully write and defend their research in a dissertation. Presentation content and quality will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).• Faculty advisors will note students who have papers published or who present at conferences. Counts will be tallied and reported (indirect measure).
Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will successfully write and defend their research in a dissertation. Presentation content and quality will be evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).• Faculty advisors will note students who have papers published or who present at conferences. Counts will be tallied and reported (indirect measure).
Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When a student completes the comprehensive/qualifying exam, the faculty advisor will examine prior course-taking, research and teaching assistantship assignments, and other activities. This goal is met with successful completion of 3 or more courses / activities outside of the department (indirect measure).• Faculty advisors will review the Individual Development Plans (IDPs) of their students. Counts of experiences/activities toward "breadth" will be tallied and reported (indirect measure).
Advances contributions of the field of study to society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty advisors will note students who have papers published or who present at conferences. Counts will be tallied and reported (indirect measure).
Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students teaching a course within the department will be observed by a faculty member and have that class presentation evaluated using a rubric created by faculty members (direct measure).• Students teaching a course within the department will be evaluated through the use of course evaluations completed in reference to their student teaching.

Professional Conduct

<p>Fosters ethical and professional conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faculty dissertation advisors will monitor student proposals of research and note issues that students have with IRB application and compliance. Information on these issues will be compiled and reported (direct measure).• Students will successfully complete Teaching Assistant (TA) training (indirect measure).• Students will successfully complete research/laboratory training as part of the requirements for being a Research Assistant (indirect measure).• Academic staff members will monitor reports of academic misconduct committed by students in the degree program (indirect measure).
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