

From: [Josh Roering](#)
To: adue@uoregon.edu; [Paul Wallace](#)
Subject: assessment plan of action: Dept of Earth Sciences
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:25:16 AM

Dear Assoc. Dean McNeely,

Below is our department's assessment plan of action for the coming year. My apologies for the delay. cheers, Josh

In 2017-2018, faculty members in the Department of Earth Sciences will focus assessment activities on our existing learning outcome that emphasizes the development of skills for tackling geoscience problems. Specifically, our learning outcome states, "Students will be proficient with the measurement, mapping, analytical and/or modeling tools that are required to quantify and analyze important aspects of Earth materials, Earth processes and Earth history." Numerous courses in the curriculum incorporate assignments toward this goal, but two courses in particular have this learning outcome at their core: GEOL 318 Introduction to Field Methods and GEOL 406 Field Studies. In these courses, students work independently and in groups to produce maps, cross sections, datasets, and models to test hypotheses and document geological processes. During future offerings of these courses, we will gather a selection of student products and make them available to an expanded curriculum committee for review and comment based on common rubrics. This assessment committee will present their findings at the departmental retreat held in September. Because our retreat commonly features a productive curriculum discussion, we anticipate that assessment reports will be beneficial to this activity. The curriculum committee meets each term and will act on the information that emerges from these assessment activities.

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