LEARNING OUTCOMES: 
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, MS

Learning Outcomes for the degree of Master of Science in Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences (on campus & online)

Thesis
1. Mastery of core knowledge in major field of study and specialized knowledge related to concentration/specialization
2. Understanding the logic of science, including the philosophy of science and research design
3. Facility with research tools/techniques and data analysis techniques relevant for major and concentration/specialization
4. Strong communication skills in conversation, presentation, and writing, particularly scientific/technical writing
5. Ability to function well professionally, with good leadership skills, well-developed problem-solving abilities, and ethical thinking

Non-Thesis
Completing the non-thesis M.S. program requires a broad grasp of current scholarly understanding of natural resources and environmental sciences. In particular, students are responsible for demonstrating adequate mastery in four core areas of study:
1. Statistics and Research Design,
2. Spatial Analysis and Modeling,
3. Ecosystem Science and Conservation Biology, and

Students must take at least one course in each of these four areas and pass a final written exam that covers them.

In order to graduate, students must demonstrate, at a masters level, the following learning objectives:
1. Broad grasp of current scholarly understanding of natural resources and environmental sciences,
2. Understanding and application of the scientific process,
3. Skills in the analysis and interpretation of relevant scientific information, and
4. Proficiency in communicating scientific information

Progress of each student is evaluated through course performance, a written final examination, the capstone paper, and a final oral examination.