The Graduate Program is anchored by the three competencies of the Teton Science Schools' Framework. These competencies guide alignment of academic coursework, teaching and community experiences. The competencies are further explored in the form of transfer goals, essential questions and enduring understandings.

**Intentional Culture**

**Transfer Goal:** In the future, graduate students will use their learning to build culture based upon community values.

**Essential Questions:** *Through the year, graduate students will continually consider…*

1. How do values affect community collaboration and cohesion?
2. How does a diverse community build intentional culture over time?

**Enduring Understandings:** *Graduate students will understand that…*

1. An intentional culture derives meaning and direction from clearly articulated shared values.
2. Actions and decisions must thoughtfully consider people and place.
3. Effective collaboration empowers communities to be greater than the sum of their parts.

**Community Leadership**

**Transfer Goal:** In the future, graduate students will use their learning to lead communities toward a shared vision and positive action.

**Essential Questions:** *Through the program, graduate students will keep considering…*

1. How can individuals effectively lead others?
2. How does our awareness of self, others and place inform leadership development?

**Enduring Understandings:** *Graduate students will understand that…*

1. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities inform effective community leadership.
2. Interdependence exists inherently within all systems and communities.

Inspiring curiosity, engagement and leadership through transformative place-based education.
3. Communities balance shared and individual needs.

**Educational Approach**

**Transfer Goal:** In the future, graduate students will use their learning to effectively design and facilitate transformative, place-based experiences.

**Essential Question:** Graduate students will continually consider…

1. How does authentic experience in and knowledge of place drive lifelong inquiry and impact?
2. How does holistic instruction stem from thoughtful awareness of the educator and learner?

**Enduring Understandings:** Graduate students will understand that…

1. Intention, passion and reflection serve meaningful teaching and learning.
2. Authentic experience in and knowledge of place leads to lifelong inquiry and impact.
3. Holistic instruction stems from an awareness of who the learner is and who the educator is.