

## **TEAM ROLE ASSIGNMENTS: EFFECTIVE GROUP STRATEGIES FOR FIRST-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE STUDENTS**

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Project management and cooperative group work are considered important parts of many ecological curricula but are often viewed negatively by students. Here, I focused on three components related to group work in UW-Stout's introductory Plant Biology class: General attitudes toward cooperative learning, feelings and attitudes toward their group mates, and feelings of self-efficacy as scientists. Working in teams, students identified and mapped populations of invasive species on campus and developed a short report their findings. For each segment of the project, students identified their "job" from a set of prescribed roles and completed a questionnaire related to their feelings toward their own and their peer's performance, their feelings about group work overall (SAGE assessment), and their feelings of self-efficacy (Baldwin's self-efficacy assessment). I anticipate using these results to adjust my own teaching practice in this class, others in the Environmental Science Program, and sharing them with the discipline.

