

2021-2022 Assessment Cycle

Assessment Plan

Mission Statement

Biology is an integrative discipline that emerges from all areas of the natural sciences and builds upon those foundations. In the spirit of our discipline the Biology Department is committed to providing students with a strong foundation in the life sciences that culminates in specialized experiences designed to prepare students not only for diverse career opportunities available in the biological sciences, but also to be life-long learners. Fundamental to our students' development is the acquisition of a broad knowledge base, the ability to integrate and apply this knowledge, and the ability to communicate observations and analyses. Through close interaction with our faculty in the classroom and in research environments the Biology Department fosters students' innate desire for discovery and helps them develop the skills and modes of thinking that will empower their contributions to an ever-expanding understanding of the natural world.

Faculty members professionally engage in their sub-disciplines through scholarly work and service, enabling them to contribute to the evolution of their disciplines and engaging them as active members of the greater scientific community abreast of the dynamic nature of their fields. This engagement functions to meet changing student needs within the Biology Department, Allied Health, pre-Nursing and other programs and serves as resources of life science knowledge and awareness of biological issues for the community at large. We strive to establish and maintain the highest standards of curricular innovation, academic rigor, technical skill, modern physical facilities, and personalized mentorship, in support of our primary goal: providing a high quality learning experiences for all students that we engage. We are, above all, a student-centered team of teachers.

Measures

BA - Biology Outcome Set

PSLO 4

Outcome: Scientific data

Analyze and interpret scientific data.

▼ **Measure:** Biology Seminar Critical Thinking Rubric Results
Course level Direct - Other

Details/Description:

Acceptable Target:

90% of students are at target (3) level for all rubric components in seminar courses (BI 395)

▼ **Measure:** Course Grades
Program level Direct - Other

Details/Description:

Acceptable Target:

75% earn a B or better for Biology Seminar (BI 390)

▼ **Measure:** Senior Exit Survey
Program level Indirect - Survey

Details/Description:

Acceptable Target:

100% of graduating senior students respond to survey question #9: "How effective were the Biology courses at helping you develop analytical skills?" with either "very good" or "excellent".

Analysis and Reporting Calendar

Data for PSLO 4 are collected and analyzed annually.

Stakeholder Involvement

A copy of the report and supporting data is available to any external interested parties upon request. Students receive course grades and are informed about course objectives and assessment tools through syllabi. Once our Department webpage is redesigned, we intend to post links to the report. Defining external stakeholders has been a difficult and ongoing process.

Program Assessment Plan Review Cycle

The Assessment Plan for this program is reviewed every three (3) years. The next scheduled review will occur with the 2021-2022 academic year.

Last Modified: 08/14/2022 10:40:53 AM CST