Degree Program Assessment
(BIMS) Biology
MS - 2010-2011

Explanation of changes made based on the results and analysis of the 2009-2010 cycle of assessment:

No changes were made from the previous year. We have been achieving our SLOs. Now that we have completed 5 years of data compilation using the same set of SLOs and criteria, the Department will plan to examine the cumulative data set more extensively in the coming academic year in order to make suggestions for future use. We will have to revise our measures and criteria for the future in order to accommodate the non-thesis degree option. A preliminary accommodation of the differing requirements between the thesis and non-thesis options has been incorporated into the 2010-2011 assessment plan. This will be more extensively reviewed during the process of examining the first 5 years of data that covers the thesis option.

Student Learning Outcome:
The students will develop research skills.

Measures:
All students completing the MS degree in Biology will complete a scientific inquiry based research project (thesis option)
All students completing the MS degree in Biology (thesis option) must enroll in and complete at least 6 credit hours of courses requiring independent research, or complete two semesters of research methods courses (non-thesis option).
All students (thesis option) must defend the results of their research before members of the Biology department faculty.

Target:
The research project will receive a satisfactory rating when evaluated by a faculty committee of no less than 3 (thesis option).
The Biology graduate program will require all students to enroll in and successfully complete 6 credit hours of courses requiring independent research prior to graduation (Biol 599, thesis option), or successful completion with at least a B grade in two semesters of Research Methods (non-thesis option).
The research project will receive a satisfactory rating when evaluated by a faculty committee of no less than 3 (thesis option).

Results and Analysis:
100% of 6 thesis-option graduates met criterion #1
All 6 thesis-option graduates (100%) successfully completed Biology 599 (6 credit hours)
1 of 1 non-thesis option graduate successfully met criterion #2
100% of 6 thesis-option graduates met criterion #3
Student Learning Outcome:
Students will develop scientific communication skills.

Measures:
All students completing the MS degree in Biology must write a scientific research thesis (thesis option).
All students completing the MS degree must present and defend the results of their research before members of the Biology department faculty (thesis option).
Students will present the results of research at a scientific meeting/conference (thesis option), or make oral presentations in graduate level classes (non-thesis option).

Target:
The research project thesis will receive a satisfactory rating when evaluated by a faculty committee of no less than 3 (thesis option).
The Biology graduate program will require thesis option students to publicly defend the results of their research before members of the Biology Department prior to graduation (thesis option).
At least 50% of students completing the MS degree in Biology will present the results of research at a scientific meeting/conference (thesis option), or successful completion of two seminar classes that require oral presentations with a minimum grade of B (non-thesis option).

Results and Analysis:
100% of 6 thesis-option graduates met criterion #1
100% of 6 thesis-option graduates met criterion #2
100% of 6 thesis-option graduates met criterion #3
1 of 1 non-thesis option graduate met criterion #3

Student Learning Outcome:
Graduates will compete very successfully in finding employment or gaining admission to professional and graduate programs.

Measures:
Students completing the MS degree in Biology will be polled to determine if they found employment in a biology-related field within a year of graduation.
The acceptance rate of students completing the MS degree in Biology and are applying to professional schools will be determined at the time of graduation.
The acceptance rate students completing the MS degree in Biology and applying to graduate schools will be determined at the time of graduation.

Target:
At least 75% of students completing the MS degree in Biology will find employment in a Biology-related field within a year of graduation.
At least 70% of students completing the MS degree in Biology and applying to professional schools will be accepted.
At least 70% of students completing the MS degree in Biology and applying to graduate schools will be accepted.

**Results and Analysis:**
80% of 5 graduates met criterion #1 and found employment in a biology-related field
1 of 1 non-thesis graduate that applied to a professional school was not admitted
100% of 2 graduates who applied to a Ph.D. program were accepted

**Explanation** of changes made based on the results and analysis of the 2010-2011 cycle of assessment:

No changes were made based on the results of the 2010-2011 cycle. The changes made to the 2010-2011 cycle to accommodate the non-thesis option were deemed adequate.