

Biology MA

Goal - Determine the Need for MA Degree

Goal Description:

While we currently offer an MA in Biology, we have not had a student in this degree program in quite some time. Currently, our goal is to gather information about the relevance and need to the degree.

Providing Department: Biology MA

Progress: Ongoing

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

LO - Assess the Viability of the MA Degree Program

Learning Objective Description:

The objective is to gather data on whether there is a need for us to continue to offer this degree program. A committee has been formed to begin to assess this viability.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

ICF - Assess the Viability and Need for the Degree Program

Indicator Description:

We have formed a committee to decide the viability of the program. This committee will meet with stakeholders to discuss the need for the program, assess resources available to support the program, and review the curriculum of the program.

Criterion Description:

The committee will report their findings to the faculty of the department. If a majority of faculty vote to keep the program, we will move forward with assessing the curriculum of the program.

Findings Description:

The committee has reported that there is a need for an MA degree, specifically for high school teachers. However, a traditional face to face program would not be viable for these students. The committee recommended that we look to build a 100% online program.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - Viability of the Degree Program

Action Description:

Currently in the process of building an online MA program. We have met with the Dean of the Graduate School, who is very supportive of this idea. We now need to build out the curriculum for the proposed degree plan.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

LO - Develop a Rubric

Learning Objective Description:

Since we are still assessing the viability of the program, our learning objectives are more for developing a curriculum for this degree program.

This degree was historically for K-12 educators who would like to get a Master's in Biology. This is a non-thesis/non-research degree.

Therefore, our current learning objective is to develop rubric to assess the ability of students to incorporate critical thinking skills in k-12 education. Ideally, we would like our rubric to have at least 5 sub areas that can easily assess the students progress.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

At this time, the faculty have decided that the program is not viable and have voted to not continue.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

We have decided that the best way forward would be to build a 100% online program.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

We have decided to build a 100% online program for high school teachers. This would require different courses than what are currently offered through our MS degree. We have formed a committee to map out the curriculum.