

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

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 recommended that we develop an online MA program specifically for teachers looking to earn an Master's degree.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - Viability of the Degree Program

Action Description:

We will begin to develop an curriculum for an online MA specifically for teachers. We plan to meet with stakeholders to determine what they would look for in such a program and then begin to develop the curriculum.

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

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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

We are continuing to map out the curriculum.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

We have decided to build an online program for high school teachers. We are working to build a curriculum for this program and plan to meet with stakeholders to determine their needs.