

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 it to gather data on whether there is a need for us to continue to offer this degree program. A committee has been form 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 decided that the MA is worth continuing and we have initiated the paperwork to have it in the 2024-2025 catalog.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - Viability of the Degree Program

Action Description:

The degree is viable and will be in the 2024-2025 catalog. The next steps are to assess the degree plan in terms of course requirements, comprehensive exam, etc.

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 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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

We have determined that the online version of this degree is not feasible at this moment but a face-to-face version is.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**Closing Summary:**

We have successfully brought back the degree plan and will implemented for the 2024-2025 catalog. Now, we will continue to asses how the degree plan is built to ensure that it meets the needs of our students.