# Online Assessment Tracking Database

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) 2014 - 2015

Biology MA

## Goal Develop MA Curriculum 🎤

The graduate faculty will revisit the MA, define goals, establish targets, and develop a curriculum for this degree.

# Objective (L) Mastering Critical Thinking P

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the new MA curriculum designed to incorporate critical learning into science education.

## Indicator Demonstrating Critical Thinking Skills P

Students entering and exiting the MA program will take pre and post-test, respectively. These tests will examine critical thinking abilities and changes between tests will be used to gauge progress.

A committee to resurrect the MA program in biology is currently working on developing this assessment tool. Once completed this pre-test will be uploaded under this objective.

## Criterion Critical Thinking Evaluation P

An average increase of 50% (pre to post-test) will be used as an acceptable level of understanding.

Finding Evaluation P

There were no MA students during this cycle.

#### Action MA Students P

There were no MA students during this cycle. The department will continue to evaluate whether an MA program is viable for Biology.

#### Objective (L) Disseminating Critical Thinking P

Students leaving the MA program will demonstrate an ability to disseminate critical thinking skills in a classroom setting.

#### Indicator Disseminating Critical Thinking P

Students exiting the program will develop critical thinking curricula for a science classroom which will be evaluated by the MA committee composed of Biology faculty.

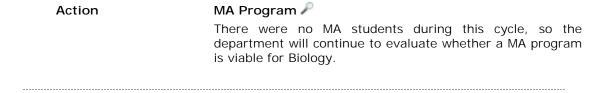
A committee to resurrect the MA program in biology is currently working on a rubric that will be used to evaluate student performance under this objective. Once completed this rubric will be posted with this objective.

## Criterion Evaluation Of Disseminating Skills P

The curriculum developed by the MA student will be graded by the committee using a faculty defined rubric. An approval score of 80% by the faculty committee will be use as a criterion for passing.

Finding Dissemination P

There were no MA students during this cycle



## Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"

The Department of Biology will continue to evaluate the demand for MA in Biology. We have decided that a science educator aspect to the MA may be fruitful. To begin this processes of developing this program, a new science educator faculty will be hired for FA15 by the Department of Biological Sciences. Once hired, the faculty will begin evaluating the plan set forward in 2012-13 review period.

Please detail the elements of your previous "Plan for Continuous Improvement" that were implemented. If elements were not implemented please explain why, along with any contextual challenges you may have faced that prevented their implementation.

The search for the science educator position failed and we will not hire a science educator for the department of biology. Therefore, in the absence of this position, the department must decide whether a MA is a viable option for the biology department.

Plan for Continuous Improvement - Please detail your plan for improvement that you have developed based on what you learned from your 2014 - 2015 Cycle Findings.

The biology department will review the external review of the graduate program and discuss whether to reinvigorate the biology MA.