

Online Assessment Tracking Database

Sam Houston State University (SHSU)
2014 - 2015

Biology MS

Goal	Increase Knowledge Of Profession 🔑 Students will gain knowledge of the profession by gaining experience in presenting at scientific conferences and through publication.
Objective (L)	Students Knowledge Of Publication Process 🔑 Students will be evaluated on their knowledge about the publication process. A test that examines the students knowledge of the profession will be admistered when the student enters graduate school. After they take a course on professional aspects of biology, they will retake the exam. Student progress will be evaluated to examin knowledge of the publication process, etc.
Indicator	Exit Exam 🔑 Students will take an exit exam that asks specific questions about the publication process.
Criterion	Exit Exam - Publications 🔑 Scores will be compared to entrance exam. An increase in knowledge about the publication process will be an indicator of success.
Finding	Exit Exam 🔑 We did not implement the exit exam during this review period. We conducted an external review of the program and based on this review we are evaluating the program goals and objectives and how we will assess program success.
Indicator	Publication Rate 🔑 Each student's publication record will be tracked throughout the MS degree.
Criterion	Publication Rate 🔑 The number of papers published following the MS graduation will be compared to number published when admitted into the program. An increase in publications over this time will indicate the student has learned about the process through direct experience.
Finding	Publications 🔑 4 MS students graduated during this cycle. 1 new publication was produced by these students during their time in the biology department.
Action	Increase Publication Rates 🔑 on average students published 0.5 papers in the previous review cycle. in this review cycle the rate was 0.25 papers per student. The faculty will work to identify ways to increase this rate.

Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"

We will continue collecting data for graduate publication rates over time. We may reassess the importance (significance) of the publication rate variable for monitoring MS program success. Currently this parameter seems to provide little information since so few students actually publish during their program.

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.

We continue to question the importance or value of this indicator. The publication rate of .25 this cycle was low and may be within the expectations of MS students. The department will evaluate this criterion and either discuss ways to improve or identify a different criterion for assessment.

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 conducted an external review of the graduate program. The results of that review are being analyzed by the graduate committee in biology and addressing targeted areas of concern. This include: time to completion, funding, teaching load, course load, and course offerings.
