

Biology MS

Increase Knowledge Of Profession

Goal Description:

Students will gain knowledge of the profession by gaining experience in presenting at scientific conferences and through publication.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Students Knowledge Of Publication Process

Learning Objective Description:

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.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Exit Exam

Indicator Description:

Students will take an exit exam that asks specific questions about the publication process.

Criterion Description:

Scores will be compared to entrance exam. An increase in knowledge about the publication process will be an indicator of success.

Findings Description:

A committee has been established to create and administer this exam. The exam will be administered in SP17.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

MS assessment committee

Action Description:

A committee has been developed and is currently working on the implementation of assessement of graduate students.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Publication Rate

Indicator Description:

Each student's publication record will be tracked throughout the MS degree.

Criterion Description:

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.

Findings Description:

A cohort has not completed a cycle since the implementation of this initiative.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

MS assessment committee

Action Description:

A committee has been developed and is currently working on the implementation of assessement of graduate students.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

A committee has been established to create and administer this exam. The exam will be administered in SP17.

Evaluating and Enhaning Graduate Student Success

Closing Summary:

The Department of Biological Sciences offers a course 'professional aspects' that introduces students to various professional aspects of the field, and faculty mentors are responsible for promoting the publication rates of students. The knowledge of the profession and the publication rate of each graduate student cohort will be tracked over time. Student weaknesses will be identified from this exam and brought to the graduate committee. Changes to the professional aspects course will be made to help address student weaknesses, and strategies will be devised to promote publication success of our graduate students.