UNIT REPORT

Biomedical Sciences BS
Assessment Plan Summary

Biomedical Sciences BS

Effectively Deliver A Core Curriculum

Goal Description:

Students will be presented well designed classes to facilitate mastering of the materials identified as a core foundation in biology – Botany, Zoology and Cell Biology

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Mastery Of Core Curriculum

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate a mastery of the core fields in biology: Botany, Zoology, Cell Biology, Microbiology, Genetics and Evolution.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Assessment Exam For Core Classes

Indicator Description:

All graduating seniors will take an exiting Biology Assessment Exam (BAE), written by the Biology Faculty. We will analyze the BAE scores from the following areas: botany, zoology, cell biology, microbiology, genetics, evolution to evaluate whether students have a significant level of understanding of each of these fields.

Criterion Description:

All Biomedical Sciences majors will be expected to score significantly better than a failing grade in all core areas: botany, zoology, cell biology, microbiology, genetics, evolution.

Findings Description:

A departmental curriculum assessment committee has been established. This committee will map the departmental curriculum for undergraduates and develop a new curriculum assessement exam. This exam will be administered Spring 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

BAE Development

Action Description:

A committee is mapping curriculum and developing a new BAE.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Understanding The Scientific Method And Develop Critical Thinking

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the general nature of scientific knowledge and how scientific knowledge is gained (the scientific method). They also will be able to critically evaluate scientific data to draw informed conclusions.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

BAE Analysis

Indicator Description:

All graduating seniors will take the Biology Assessment Exam (BAE). We will use BAE exam scores from analytical questions to evaluate a student’s understanding of the scientific method and critical thinking.

Criterion Description:

All Biomedical Sciences majors will be expected to score significantly better than failing on analytical questions related to the scientific method and critical thinking.

Findings Description:

A departmental curriculum assessment committee has been established. This committee will map the departmental curriculum for undergraduates and develop a new curriculum assessement exam. This exam will be administered Spring 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

BAE Development

Action Description:

A committee is mapping curriculum and developing a new BAE.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

The department will investigate ways to increase student participation so that adequate comparisons can be made within the different majors.

In addition to these efforts, the department will continue to The departmental will continue to evaluate:
1. expectations in each core area.
2. review questions within each core area
3. balance the number of factual knowledge questions and critical thinking questions.
4. create a broader range of question difficulties that will aid in analysis.
5. plan a mechanism to increase test turnout.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

A departmental curriculum assessment committee has been established. This committee will map the departmental curriculum for undergraduates and develop a new curriculum assessement exam. This exam will be administered Spring 2017.

Evaluating and Promoting Student Success

Closing Summary:

After the new exit exam is developed, it will be administered to graduating seniors. We will review the results of this exam each year and we will identify weaknesses in content areas - only content areas related to the biomedical sciences will be reviewed (i.e., Botany, Zoology, Cell Biology, Genetics, Microbiology). We will then convene as a faculty to review these weaknesses and implement strategies for improving success in these areas. This may include changes to curriculum, instructional methods, etc.