

**Program: Associate in Science, biology emphasis**
**Assessment period: Fall 2008-Spring  
2010**
**Program or Department Mission:**

The mission of the Department of Biology is twofold: first, we are committed to educate students in the principle tenets of biology through structured inquiry and opportunities for individualized experiential learning. Second, we are committed to teaching ethical behavior in experimental design and practice to all of our students. The Department strives to provide the best educational opportunities possible for students to attain their academic goals and to facilitate faculty in scholarship in an atmosphere that encourages free exchange of ideas.

<b>Plan</b>		<b>Report</b>	
<b>Intended goals, outcomes, or objectives</b>	<b>Means of Assessment &amp; Criteria for Success</b>	<b>Summary &amp; Analysis of Assessment Evidence</b>	<b>Use of Results</b>
<p>The Biology department will not continue to assess the success of this program for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Currently, the Biology department is investigating the discontinuation of the Associate in Science degree due to students' lack of interest in pursuing the degree.</li> <li>2. Because of the paucity of students in this category over last few assessment intervals, the data collected was insignificant, and we were unable to make informative statements that were unique and specific to these students.</li> </ol>			

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Demonstrate a general knowledge of essential biological principles, concepts and terminology included in the sub-disciplines of inheritance, biodiversity, ecology, cell biology and organismal biology.	<p><b>First means of assessment:</b> Students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, will take the CAAP test and score 70 percentile or better in the science reasoning section.</p> <p><b>Second means of assessment:</b> Students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, will take the MFAT test and score 30 percentile or better in cellular and subcellular biology, 40 percentile or better in organismal biology, and 30 percentile or better in population biology.</p>		
Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of ecology emphasizing organisms' interdependency for survival and for quality of life in the biosphere.	<p><b>First means of assessment:</b> Students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, will take the MFAT biology test and score 30 percentile or better in the population biology, ecology and evolution section.</p> <p><b>Second means of assessment:</b> 70% of students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, who are accepted into baccalaureate biology programs will achieve grades in upperdivision ecology classes</p>		

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	equivalent to the science GPA earned at UVSC.		
Demonstrate a general knowledge of the process of evolution and the role of natural selection in biodiversity; and recognize evolution as the unifying theory within biology.	<p><b>First means of assessment:</b> Students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, will take the MFAT biology test and score 30 percentile or better in the population biology, ecology and evolution section.</p> <p><b>Second means of assessment:</b> 70% of students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, who are accepted into baccalaureate biology programs will achieve grades in upperdivision evolution classes equivalent to the science GPA earned in biology classes at UVSC.</p>		
Demonstrate a knowledge of molecular genetics and principles of inheritance.	<p><b>First means of assessment:</b> Students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, will take the MFAT biology test and score 30 percentile or better in the cellular and subcellular biology and 30 percentile in population biology.</p>		

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	<p><b>Second means of assessment:</b> 70% of students successfully completing the Associates in Science degree, biology emphasis, who are accepted into baccalaureate biology programs will achieve grades in upperdivision genetics classes equivalent to the average science GPA earned in lower division classes taken at UVSC.</p>		
<p>Students successfully completing a biology Associates in Science degree and applying to a four year institution will be accepted and will be successful in their academic pursuits in upper division biology course work.</p>	<p><b>First means of assessment:</b> 70% of student successfully completing the Associate in Science, Emphasis in Biology, degree who apply to enter other four year institutions or apply to enter UVSC's baccalaureate biology program will be accepted.</p> <p><b>Second means of assessment:</b> 70% of students successfully completing the Associate in Science, Emphasis in Biology, degree who successfully matriculate into a baccalaureate program will, by the second semester, have a follow-on biology course GPA equivalent to the GPA earned in the Associate degree program at UVSC.</p>		
<p>Plan submission date: December 4, 2009</p> <p>Submitted by: Heather Wilson-Ashworth</p>		<p>Report submission date:</p> <p>Submitted by:</p>	