

Program: Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology Education

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.

Plan		Report	
Intended goals, outcomes, or objectives	Means of Assessment & Criteria for Success	Summary & Analysis of Assessment Evidence	Use of Results
<p>It is important to our department to obtain a more detailed report of student performance. Hence, our goals will remain the same, but the methods for gathering the information will change as indicated below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We plan to administer the MFAT both fall and spring which will double the sample size. 2. Students from each of the three majors (biology, integrated biology and secondary education biology) will be divided into separate cohorts in the reports of the MFAT test, distinguishing the scores according to majors. 3. The cumulative GPAs for the students taking the MFAT will be correlated to students taking the MFAT to better understand the results and determine if there is a 			

Plan		Report	
Intended goals, outcomes, or objectives	Means of Assessment & Criteria for Success	Summary & Analysis of Assessment Evidence	Use of Results
<p>cohort effect.</p> <p>4. Effective fall semester 2009, the number of upper division biology electives required for graduation was raised from 20 to 30 credit hours. We anticipate seeing improved scores in all the subscores of the MFAT, but most especially in the organismal subscore by fall 2011. The anticipated outcome of this change is to increase the number of students scoring above the 60th and 75th percentile.</p> <p>5. Current educational studies demonstrate that the development of critical thinking and problem solving skills result in increased student performance on assessments. In addition, prospective teachers can teach those skills to their students. Our department plans to send a few faculty to science education conferences to attend presentations on these topics and then share this information with the rest of the department.</p> <p>The department's goals are in the following rows:</p>			

Plan		Report	
Intended goals, outcomes, or objectives	Means of Assessment & Criteria for Success	Summary & Analysis of Assessment Evidence	Use of Results
Demonstrate an overall knowledge of biology needed to teach in the secondary education system.	In the evolution class (capstone class) students take the national exam, MFAT. The students' scores for each subject area of the MFAT will be used for assessment. Specifically, -30% of the students will score in the 75 th percentile or better in each subject area. -50 % of the students will score in the 60 th percentile or better in each subject area. -60% of the students will score in the 50 th percentile or better in each subject area.		
90% of UVSC students completing a Bachelors of Science Degree in Secondary Education in biology and who apply for employment teaching in junior high and high schools will successfully gain employment in secondary education within one year.	All of the students who complete the requirements for graduation with a B.S. degree in secondary education in biology and seek employment in secondary education will be tracked by the biology advisor. Information will be kept on the number of UVU who are successful in obtaining employment in secondary education vs the number who are unsuccessful. The percent will be compared to the goal of 90% placement		
Students who do gain employment in secondary education will demonstrate skill and knowledge in pedagogy.	A student who has successfully been employed in secondary education is required by the state board of education to take the Paxis II Pedagogy test after two years of employment. We anticipate that 100% of UVU		

Plan		Report	
Intended goals, outcomes, or objectives	Means of Assessment & Criteria for Success	Summary & Analysis of Assessment Evidence	Use of Results
	students will score above the state average.		
Plan submission date: December 4, 2009 Submitted by: Heather Wilson-Ashworth		Report submission date: Submitted by:	