Central Washington University
Assessment of Student Learning
Department and Program Report

Academic Year of Report: 2013-14       College: COTS
Program: Primate Behavior & Ecology (Degree MS in Primate Behavior)

Check here if your assessment report covers all graduate degree programs: [X]

1. What student learning outcomes were assessed this year, and why?

The complete list of program goals and SLOs are attached to this report, with SLOs/goals assessed in 2013-14 highlighted in yellow. We assessed SLOs related to Goals 1 (one SLO) and 6 (one SLO). We assessed these particular goals because they enabled us to explore whether our new research methods class, taken during the students’ first quarter in the program, prepares them to conduct primatological research.

2. How were they assessed?
   2a. What methods were used?

   We assessed the SLOs related to Goals 1 and 6 using two assignments embedded in PRIM 513 Research Methods in Primatology. One assignment requires students to create an ethogram, an instrument essential to behavioral data collection. Students also submit a grant proposal at the quarter’s end, which requires students to combine all topics covered during the quarter to create a research plan following the CWU School of Graduate Studies guidelines.

   2b. Who was assessed?

   The 2014 Primate Behavior student cohort, which totaled seven students.

   2c. When was it assessed?

   Both goals were assessed during fall 2014.

3. What was learned?

   Goal 1, SLO 3: On a grant proposal assignment in PRIM 513, 80% of students will earn ≥ 80% of points from the grading rubric.

   The goal set in SLO 3 was met. Six of seven students met criterion for this assignment, indicating that during the course they were able to consolidate multiple concepts and procedures to prepare them to write a preliminary grant proposal (Table 1).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score on Rubric</th>
<th>Standard Met? (standard ≥ 80%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>80/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>89/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>98/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>80/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 5</td>
<td>81/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student 6</td>
<td>67/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 7</td>
<td>85/100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1.** FA 2014 student scores on proposal assignment in PRIM 513 Research Methods in Primatology

**Goal 6. SLO 5:** In PRIM 513, students will demonstrate the ability to operationalize behaviors to facilitate data collection, as indicated by a score of ≥ 80% or better on ethogram assignment.

**The goal established in SLO 5 was met.** All of the students met criterion for this assignment, meaning students are well-prepared to write an ethogram that is exhaustive, exclusive, and defined to enable accurate behavioral data collection (Table 2). This step in the research process is the necessary first one prior to consideration of methodologies and analytical frameworks, so it is crucial for students to master.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score on Rubric</th>
<th>Standard Met? (standard ≥ 80%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student 1</td>
<td>9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 2</td>
<td>9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 3</td>
<td>9.5/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 4</td>
<td>9/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 5</td>
<td>9.5/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 6</td>
<td>8.5/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 7</td>
<td>10/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** FA 2014 student scores on ethogram assignment in PRIM 513 Research Methods in Primatology

4. **What will the department or program do as a result of that information?**

This assessment report has been provided to all program faculty, and we will meet during winter quarter 2015 to discuss the results. One change we might consider is including advisor involvement in shaping the PRIM 513 proposal assignment, rather than just the instructor’s. Four students just met or were below criterion for this SLO, which suggests students need additional preparation during the quarter to successfully complete this assignment. If thesis advisors can join the instructor in the review of the proposal, the result might be stronger proposals that are more directly relevant to the student’s eventual thesis project.
5. What did the department or program do in response to last year’s assessment information?

We created a graduate certificate program that we hope to launch in fall quarter 2015. This program is intended to serve students who plan to enter caregiving fields (zoo or sanctuary settings) rather than continuing on for more advanced graduate degrees.

The retirement of the CHCI chimpanzees and extended research leave of one faculty member results in a need to update the MS curriculum to reflect new placement sites for students and changing faculty expertise. We approved curriculum changes for the MS degree program. These changes address low enrollment issues, will ensure more timely progress of students through the degree program, and will allow a redefinition of the program that reflects current opportunities available for Primate Behavior and Ecology faculty and students. The proposed curriculum changes are attached.

6. Questions or suggestions concerning assessment of student learning at Central Washington University

None.

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Primate Behavior MS
Program Goals (revised May 2009; highlight indicates goals assessed in 2013-14)

Core Courses
- PRIM 501 Introduction to Primatology (presentation of interdisciplinary nature of the field)
- PRIM 503 Current Issues in Primatology
- PRIM 504 Culture and Cognition
- PRIM 505 History of Primate Interconnections
- PRIM 513 Research Methods in Primatology

Goal 1 (Knowledge): PB MS students will demonstrate knowledge of the field of primatology, including current issues, methods, theories, and topics of study.
1. On written papers in PRIM 503, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.
2. On oral presentations in PRIM 504, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.
3. On a grant proposal assignment in PRIM 513, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.

Goal 2 (Knowledge): PB MS students will understand the interdisciplinary nature of primatology and how biologists, psychologists, and anthropologists approach the study of primates.
1. On discussion leader sessions in PRIM 501, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.
2. Student performance as discussion leader will improve during the quarter as she or he becomes more aware of the interdisciplinary nature of primatology.

Goal 3 (Value): PB MS students will value biodiversity.
1. During oral presentations in PRIM 511, 80% of students will accurately identify the major causes of primate endangerment.
2. During oral presentations in PRIM 511, 100% of students will be able to describe biodiversity and cite biological and societal reasons explaining why biodiversity is important.

Goal 4 (Skill): PB MS students will engage in professional activities. All students will engage in at least one professional activity before graduation.
1. The student’s thesis advisor will document on an annual evaluation form the number of student presentations submitted, rejected, and accepted.
2. The student’s thesis advisor will document on an annual evaluation form the number of student publications submitted, rejected, and accepted.
3. The student’s thesis advisor will document on an annual evaluation student grant proposals submitted, rejected, and accepted.

Goal 5 (Skill): PB MS students will be able to effectively communicate.
1. Oral presentations in PRIM 503, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.
2. Written papers in PRIM 504, 80% of students will earn 80% of points from grading rubric.

Goal 6 (Skill): PB Students will be able to design and carry out an independent research project of significance to primatology.
1. In PRIM 513, students will demonstrate the ability to operationalize behaviors to facilitate data collection, as indicated by a score of 80% or better on ethogram assignment.
2. Each student will successfully defend her or his research proposal, as indicated by the thesis committee members signing the Graduate Committee and Option Approval form, by the end of the student’s first year in the program.
3. Each student’s IACUC/IRB form will be submitted and approved by the end of the student’s first year in the program.
4. The student will successfully defend her or his thesis, as indicated by the committee members signing off on the thesis.
5. 80% of student theses will be accepted by the Graduate Studies office without being returned to the committee for additional revisions.
### CURRENT MS CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course number</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 501</td>
<td>Intro to Primatol</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIM 503</td>
<td>Current Issues Primatol</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIM 504</td>
<td>Culture &amp; Cognition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 505</td>
<td>Hist Prim Interconnec</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIM 513</td>
<td>Research Methods Primatol</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIM 700</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIM 595A</td>
<td>Indep Res</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL UNITS</strong></td>
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### REVISIONS TO MS CURRICULUM

<table>
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<th>Course name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 501</td>
<td>Intro to Primatol</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 513</td>
<td>Adv Biostatistics OR PSY 558 Adv Statistics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 513</td>
<td>Research Methods Primatol</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 700</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIM 595A</td>
<td>Indep Res</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Choose 15 units from**
  - PRIM 503  | Current Issues Primatol  | 4  
  - PRIM 504  | Culture & Cognition      | 4  
  - PRIM 505  | Hist Prim Interconnec    | 4  
  - PRIM 511  | Primate Conserv           | 4  
  - PRIM 516  | Pongid Behavior           | 4  
  - PRIM 590  | Internship in Primatol    | 1-12|
  - ANTH 512  | Long Term Prim Studies     | 4  
  - ANTH 516  | Molecular Genetics         | 4  
  - ANTH 518  | Primate Evol               | 4  
  - ANTH 520  | Intro to Prim Captive Care  | 2   
  - ANTH 5XX  | Exhibiting Nature          | 4  
  - ANTH 5XX  | Public Education           | 4  
  - ANTH XXX  | Grant-writing in Anthropology | 4  
  - BIOL 453  | Mammalogy                  | 5  
  - BIOL 470  | Mechanisms of Evol         | 5  
  - BIOL 565  | Animal Behav               | 5  
  - BIOL 566  | Conserv Biol               | 5  
  - PHIL 465  | Advanced Ethics: Ethics & Animals | 5  
  - PSY 513   | Conserv Psychol            | 4  
  - PSY 541   | Adv Cognitive Psychol      | 5  
  - PSY 520   | Psychol of Language        | 4  
  - PSY 521   | Human Neuroanatomy         | 4  
  - or other 400- and 500-level courses by advisement

**TOTAL UNITS** 45