



Central Washington University

Degree Program Student Learning Outcome Assessment Plan

Department: Biological Sciences

Program: BA-Biology

Revised Fall 2015

Student Learning Outcome (performance, knowledge, attitudes)	Related CWU Strategic Outcome(s) http://www.cwu.edu/strategic-planning/	Method(s) of Assessment (What is the assessment?)*	Who Assessed (Students from what courses - population)**	When Assessed (term, dates)***	Standard of Mastery/ Criterion of Achievement (How good does performance have to be?)
1. Students will exhibit basic mastery of biological content.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Major Field Test (MFT) in Biology (A standardized test given nationally to assess knowledge and critical thinking related to the field of biology).	All students with senior standing in the program take the MFT prior to graduation.	Students take the MFT as part of the BIOL 499 - Senior Seminar course which is offered each quarter.	Students must score a minimum of 35 on each of the four subscores relating to different disciplines within biology.
2. Students will be able to reason analytically.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Major Field Test (MFT) in Biology (A standardized test given nationally to assess knowledge and critical thinking related to the field of biology).	All students with senior standing in the program take the MFT prior to graduation.	Students take the MFT as part of the BIOL 499 - Senior Seminar course which is offered each quarter.	Students must score a minimum of 35 on each of the four subscores relating to different disciplines within biology.
3. Students will be able to critically analyze the primary literature.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Students will discuss relevant research during Senior Seminar (BIOL 499S), and appropriate biology courses.	All students take BIOL 499 – Senior Seminar in their senior year.	Senior year.	Students must meet the criteria for the BIOL 499 course as established by each instructor.

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4. Students will employ appropriate experimental design and methodology.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes. 3.1.2 Sustain the number of courses that include research, scholarship, and creative expression skills as key outcomes.	Students will write research proposals and conduct research projects in appropriate courses.	All students are assessed in their courses throughout their program.	Numerous times throughout their program.	Students must meet the criteria for the assignments in each course as established by each instructor.
5. Students will effectively communicate underlying principles of biology.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Students will prepare oral, written, and poster presentations in several different courses, depending on instructor.	All students are assessed in their courses throughout their program.	Numerous times throughout their program.	Students must meet the criteria for the assignments in each course as established by each instructor.
6. Students will demonstrate basic scientific skills.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Students use various scientific instruments to make measurements in the lab and field.	All students are assessed in their courses throughout their program.	Numerous times throughout their program.	Students must meet the criteria for the assignments in each course as established by each instructor.

*Method(s) of assessment should include those that are both direct (tests, essays, presentations, projects) and indirect (surveys, interviews) in nature.

**Data needs to be collected and differentiated by location (Ellensburg campus vs University Centers) and modality (e.g. online, face-to-face, hybrid)

***Timing of assessment should ideally be at different transition points of program (i.e., admission, mid-point, end-of-program, post-program)

rev. 12/14

Assessment Cycle

Analysis and Interpretation: December
Improvement Actions: Completed by June
Dissemination: Completed by June

Year SLOs	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
1	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	x	x	x	x	x	x
4		x	x	x	x	x
5		x	x	x	x	x
6		x	x	x	x	x

Assessment Oversight

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