



Central Washington University

Degree Program Student Learning Outcome Assessment Plan

Department: Biological Sciences

Program: MS-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 take courses designed to enhance their knowledge in their chosen area of specialization and to bolster areas deemed deficient in their undergraduate education.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Students meet with their advisor to determine their coursework needs and complete a "Course of Study" form which lists all courses to be taken for the degree.	All students in the M.S program.	Coursework will be completed in two academic years.	Students must receive a grade of "B-" or higher in all courses.
2. Students will define an area of interest within biology and demonstrate historic and current knowledge of that area.	1.1.1 Students will achieve programmatic learning outcomes.	Oral examination conducted by the student's Graduate Committee and departmental faculty.	All students in the M.S program	Exam must be completed at least one quarter prior to graduation.	Exam is graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory as determined by the student's thesis committee.
3. Students will design a research project, which will serve as the basis of the thesis.	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.	A detailed research proposal must be submitted to the student's thesis committee containing a literature review, experimental design and methodology, and proposed analyses to be conducted.	All students in the M.S program	The proposal must be submitted to the thesis committee by the end of the students second quarter.	The thesis committee will judge the acceptability of the proposal and feasibility of the project

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4. Students will demonstrate the results of their graduate research in the form of a professional level thesis.	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.	The student will write a thesis that will include a literature review, description of methodology, data analysis, and discussion of results.	All students in the M.S program	The thesis committee and the Graduate Studies office representative must sign the thesis within six years of beginning the program.	The thesis committee and the School of Graduate Studies will judge acceptability of the thesis.

*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	x

Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
James Johnson	Biology	jjohnson@cwu.edu	2876