

Department/Program: Biology	Chair/Director: Spencer Cortwright	Assessment cycle/year:
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### Mission/Purpose

### Student learning outcomes (Goals):

*Ex. Program will produce well-prepared graduates. (Add more lines as needed.)*

Goal 1. Students will obtain a firm foundation and advanced study in all important sub-fields of biology.

Goal 2. Students will learn critical evaluation of new scientific results and incorporate key findings into their base of knowledge.

Goal 3. Students will conceive and perform biological experiments that include data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and synthesis of findings.

Goal 4. Students will learn effective communication via scientific writing of research reports, essay exams, and grants; and via oral presentation of scientific studies

### Which Goals did you assess this year?


### Assessment Summary

Outcomes/Objectives	Measure(s)	Findings	Action Plans
<i>Ex. Students will demonstrate proficiency in oral communication.</i>	<i>Rubric applied to capstone project presentations.</i>	<i>60% of students scored a 3 or higher.</i>	<i>Provide tutorials and practice sessions for oral presentations once a month through the tutoring center.</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

### Analysis Questions

*Ex. Based on your findings and action plans, what primary changes will you make for student learning? Program outcomes? Changes to the assessment process?*

1. During 08-09, 09-10, and 10-11 we implemented a survey taken by our L101 classes. The survey featured 10 questions of fundamental scientific and biological knowledge (now upped to 20). We found that a score of 6 correct or lower correlated well with DWF rate. For example, in fall of 2010, eight students did not take our advice to take L100 as a prep for L101. Of those eight, only one earned a grade allowing one to move on to L102, and that was a C-. Other students did take our advice as they switched to L100. Now we use the survey as a placement test. Fall 2012 is the first semester where each student must score 12/20 to enter L101. We expect DWF rate to drop with this placement test, so starting the end of Fall 2012 we will start analyzing trends. Starting in Fall 2010 and going through estimated grades (as of 31 October 2012) for Fall 2012, our

DWF rate for Biol L101, L102, and L211 averages about 40%. We expect this to drop with our L101 placement test in place.

2.