

Dr. Ed Nelson - coordinator

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Southeastern Louisiana University
B.S. Biological Sciences

EXPANDED STATEMENT OF
INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

Mission Statement

As the primary focus of Southeastern Louisiana University, undergraduate instruction in the liberal arts and sciences is comprehensive and of high quality.

Goal Statement

To develop and maintain:

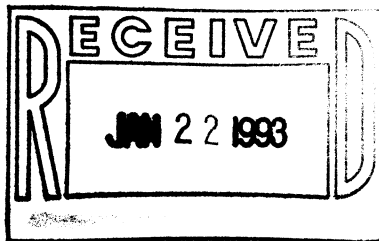
1. Quality educational programs
2. Appropriate standards for the assurance of each graduate's proficiency in a major field of study.

PROGRAM
INTENDED OUTCOMES

1. Graduating seniors will compare favorably with similar students nationwide in their knowledge of biological principles.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
AND PROCEDURES

- 1a. All biology majors, upon taking biology seminar, will be given the Major Field Assessment Test in Biology. The average score for SLU majors should be comparable to that of biology majors nationwide
- 1b. All graduating seniors will have taken at least one course in each of the following areas: botany, zoology, microbiology, cell biology, and genetics and at least 20 additional hours of biological sciences. The student will obtain a grade of at least a C in each of these courses.
- 1c. On the Department Exit Survey, at least 80% of the graduating students will indicate that they received at least an adequate preparation in each area of biology assessed by the questionnaire.



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2. Senior students will have good written and oral communicative skills. These include being able to conduct a literature search, read and interpret scientific literature, including charts, graphs, and tables, and write a grammatically correct, scientific report and give an oral presentation.

3. Graduating seniors will have good analytical skills and the ability to analyze data. Students will also be computer literate.

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faculty vote*
- ~~2a. A copy of term papers and research papers prepared by biology majors will be submitted at the end of each semester by the course instructors. They will be kept in the student's folder in the Biology office and will be reviewed by the Department Chairman and by the student's advisor when the student applies for graduation. The papers should meet standard accepted criteria for scientific writing.~~

- 2b. Senior students will present a well organized scientific seminar as part of Biology Seminar. The talk will be evaluated by at least two members of the Biology faculty.

- 2c. Biology majors will pass courses in English composition, speech, and technical writing. They also will pass the SLU English Proficiency Test.

3. Biology majors will pass courses in college algebra, statistics, inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, and computer science. They will also pass the SLU Mathematics Competency Test.

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**PROGRAM
INTENDED OUTCOMES**

4. Graduating biology seniors will be well rounded in the liberal arts and know a foreign language.
5. Biology majors should know basic laboratory skills in Botany, Zoology, and Microbiology including laboratory safety, performing experiments using the scientific method, using basic laboratory equipment, synthesizing, evaluating, and arranging data into meaningful tables, charts, and graphs, and effectively drawing conclusions from the results.
6. Students who wish to continue their education will be adequately prepared to pursue a graduate degree in a biological field if they meet the admission criteria.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
AND PROCEDURES**

4. Biology majors will pass courses in literature, history, arts, social sciences, and will have four semesters of a foreign language.
- 5a. Biology majors will pass laboratory courses in in botany, zoology, and microbiology and also in inorganic and organic chemistry, and physics.
- 5b. On the departmental exit survey, at least 80% will indicate an "excellent" or "adequate" preparation in basic laboratory skills.
- 6a. At least 70% of the graduating seniors will indicate on the exit survey that they feel adequately or well-prepared to seek further education.
- 6b. Students who indicate on the "Survey of Graduates" that they are seeking a graduate degree in a biological science, will indicate that they are "satisfied" or "well satisfied" with their instruction in the major and when they compare themselves with alumni from other institutions, they believe their preparation at SLU was "better" or "about equal".

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Goal Statement

To develop and maintain:

2. A positive environment for students' overall development.

**PROGRAM
INTENDED OUTCOMES**

7. Graduating seniors will have a positive attitude towards science.

8. Graduating seniors will feel they have a close student/faculty relationship with faculty in their major field.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
AND PROCEDURES**

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by faculty*

- ~~7a. On the Test of Science-Related Attitudes, to be given during Biology Seminar, 80% of seniors will have a more positive score than the national average.~~

- 7b. On the Departmental Exit Survey, at least 80% of the graduating seniors will indicate that their attitude towards science in general and biology in particular is positive.

- 8a. On the Department Exit Survey, 90% of graduating seniors will indicate that they know two or more departmental faculty members well enough to ask them for a letter of recommendation.

- 8b. 90% of students will indicate on the Department Exit Survey that they feel the faculty members in the department are "helpful" or "very helpful" outside of class.