

**MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN
B. S. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational and cultural development of the southeast region of the state known as the Northshore. The University's educational programs are based on vital and evolving curricula that address emerging regional, national, and international priorities. Southeastern provides credit and non-credit educational experiences that emphasize challenging, relevant course content and innovative, effective delivery systems. Global perspectives are broadened through programs that offer the opportunity to work and study abroad. Together, Southeastern and the community provide a broad array of cultural activities that complete the total educational experience. (approved by Louisiana Board of Regents in Spring 2001)

The Department of Biological Sciences attempts to foster among all students a grasp and appreciation for biology and to offer a four-year curriculum in Biological Sciences with concentrations in Microbiology/Molecular Biology, Ecology/Environmental/Evolutionary Biology, and Organismal/Integrated Biology. Pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, optometry, and pharmacy are also offered.

Goal 1

Students taking Biological Science courses will feel that they have had a quality educational experience.

A. Expected Outcome

Students taking Biological Sciences courses will compare the experience favorably to other courses they have taken in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the University in general.

Assessment

- a. On the Student Opinion of Teaching (SOT) survey given to each class each semester by the University, students will rate Biological Science classes favorably compared to student rating of classes overall for the college and the University. On the majority of the 24 criteria for teaching effectiveness judged by the SOT, the faculty of the Biology department will rate at least equal to the faculty of the college and university.
- b. On the SLU exit survey, at least 80% of the graduating seniors surveyed will be satisfied (3 or 4) or highly satisfied (5) with the "Effectiveness of the faculty as teachers" and the "Effectiveness of beginning courses in preparing you for advanced courses" and "Quality of instruction in advanced courses".

B. Expected Outcome

Graduating seniors will feel they were satisfied with the department and their major.

Assessment

On the Undergraduate Alumni Survey at least 70% of the graduates will indicate they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of the department and the overall quality of the degree program.

C. Expected Outcome

Students who wish to continue their education will be adequately prepared to pursue a graduate degree in a biological or professional field or to obtain a job after college.

Assessment

At least 10% of the graduating seniors will indicate they are enrolled in a graduate or professional program on the SLU Exit Survey. At least 80% of the students will be positive about the outlook for a job or further study in the field.

Goal 2

Biological Sciences students should have a good understanding of the areas of Biology, especially those in their concentration.

Expected Outcome

Senior biology students will have a knowledge of the different areas of biology.

Assessment

In Biology Seminar, all biology majors will be given a standardized multiple choice test with the questions about the main areas of biology including cell biology, cell physiology, biochemistry, genetics, animal diversity, evolution, microbiology, botany, ecology, and anatomy and physiology. At least 50% of the students will achieve a passing grade on the test.

Goal 3

Biology majors will have the skills needed to present Biological research.

Expected Outcome

Senior students will have good written, oral, and electronic communicative skills. These include being able to conduct a literature search (including on the internet), read and interpret scientific literature including charts, graphs, and tables, and present a scientific correct report of their findings.

Assessment

Senior students will present a well organized scientific seminar as part of Biology Seminar. It will include a Powerpoint or other computer slide presentation.

Goal 4

Students will feel that the department and university provided adequate resources including computer, library, technology in the classroom, and facilities and equipment.

Expected Outcome

Graduates will have a positive view on the availability and quality of the above resources.

Assessment

On the SLU Exit Survey, at least 80% of the graduating seniors will indicate their satisfaction with the resources they had including resources including computer, library, technology in the classroom, and facilities and equipment .

Goal 5

To foster good faculty/student relationships.

Expected Outcome

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

Assessment

- a. On the SLU Exit Survey, 90% of the graduating seniors will indicate that they are satisfied with the friendliness and helpfulness of faculty.
- b. 90% of students will indicate on the SLU Exit Survey that they are satisfied with opportunities to interact with faculty outside of class.

Goal 6

To encourage a global perspective among Biology majors.

Expected Outcome

Biology students will be aware of other cultures and languages and will have opportunities to travel abroad for study.

Assessment

- a. All graduating biology majors will have taken four semesters of a foreign language.
- b. Biology students will have been provided with opportunities for travel and study abroad.