

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Biology**

**Master's Program in Biology
Doctoral Program in Biology**

Key Assessment Findings

In AY2009-10, the number of students taking the master's and doctoral comprehensive examination were too small to report. We will continue to collect the data on the graduate comprehensive examination and will report the numbers in aggregate form for the 5-year assessment findings report.

Curricular Improvements

In AY2009-10, we have been developing the curriculum for our new Master's Program in Biotechnology. We welcomed a new faculty member, a clinical associate professor who will be directing this program and developing the new courses associated with the program. The first course, "Principles and Practice of Biotechnology", will be offered in the fall of 2010. In addition, we have developed and approved rubrics to be applied to our graduate comprehensive examinations. In the spring of 2010, we did not have any graduate students who took the comprehensive examination, but we will be using the rubrics beginning with the fall 2010 students. We will report data using the rubric in the next annual report, if we have a large enough number of students, or in aggregate form for the 5-year assessment findings report.

