

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

**Master's Program in Biology
Doctoral Program in Biology
AY 2011-12**

Key Assessment Findings

In AY2011-12, we had a total of 9 graduate students taking comprehensive exams: 4 were master's and five were doctoral candidates (Table 1). All 9 of these students passed the comprehensive exams. Because of these small numbers and to preserve confidentiality, we are reporting the scores for all the graduate students in aggregate for this annual report. However, we will report the data for each degree individually for the 5-year assessment findings report.

Table 1. Graduate Comprehensive Examination Data from AY2011-12

	Fail		Pass		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	
Biology graduate students	0	0.00%	9	100%	9

Table 2. Student Learning Assessment Rubric of Graduate Comprehensive Exams from AY2011-12

Trait	Level						Mean	SD	Total N
	Exceeding Expectations (3pts)		Meeting Expectations (2pts)		Below Expectations (1pt)				
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
1) Knowledge of biological curriculum content	3	33%	5	56%	1	11%	2.22	0.67	9
2) Written presentation of scientific topics	2	22%	6	67%	1	11%	2.11	0.60	9
3) Science analytical skills	3	33%	5	56%	1	11%	2.22	0.67	9

Note: 1) The "N" represents the number of students at each level of performance for each trait.

2) The "%" represents the percentage of the number of students falling at the level performance for each trait against the total number of students.

3) The mean is the average of all scores across the levels within the trait.

4) The standard deviation (SD) is the measure of the variability of the data set, indicating how "spread out" these data are from the mean value.

Curricular Improvements

In AY2011-12, we are continuing to expand the curriculum for our Master's Programs in Biotechnology and in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Multiple new courses were developed and offered for the first time this year including: Biol 581 Essentials of Biotechnology Project Management, Biol 582 Biotechnology Internship, Biol 583 Regulation of Domestic and Global Biotechnology Products, Biol 593 Rational Drug Design, Biol 596 Computational Genomics, Biol 747 Advanced Hematology, and Biol 751 Laboratory Management.