

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Biology
Undergraduate B.A./B.S. Program in Biology

Key Assessment Findings

There were 78 students who took the undergraduate comprehensive examination over the 5-year period beginning AY11-12 (Table 1). All of those students but one passed this key assessment milestone for their B.S. or B.A. degree in Biology. The data for that student are not included in Table 2 because they did not complete the comprehensive assessment and were not graded. Further, between 10 and 35% of the students exceeded expectations for the comprehensive exam performance based on the rubric data shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Undergraduate Comprehensive Examination Data from AY2011-16

UNDERGRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RESULTS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
AY2011-2012 to AY2015-2016

	Fail		Pass		High Pass		Pass w/Honors		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
AY2011-2012	0	0.00%	5	62.50%	3	37.50%		0.00%	8
AY2012-2013	0	0.00%	13	92.86%	1	7.14%		0.00%	14
AY2013-2014	0	0.00%	16	80.00%	4	20.00%		0.00%	20
AY2014-2015	0	0.00%	15	100.00%	0	0.00%		0.00%	15
AY2015-2016	1	4.76%	18	85.71%	2	9.52%		0.00%	21
TOTAL	1	1.28%	67	85.90%	10	12.82%	0	0.00%	78

Note:

- 1) Milestone outcomes were included in the categories High Pass and Pass with Honors if these designations were explicitly indicated in the students' milestone record.
- 2) Category "High Pass" includes both "High Pass" and "Pass with distinction".
- 3) The count in this table is based on the exam outcomes of all attempts in an academic year.

Table 2. Undergraduate Comprehensive Examination Rubric Data from AY2015-16

Table of Results
Student Learning Assessment Rubric
Department of Biology
B.S. and B.A. in Biology
Rubric for Senior Comprehensive Exam

Trait	Level						Mean	SD	Total N
	Exceeding Expectations (3pts)		Meeting Expectations (2pts)		Below Expectations (1pt)				
	N	%	N	%	N	%			
1) Proficiency in curricular content and biological concepts	5	25%	15	75%	0	0%	2.25	0.44	20
2) Written presentation of scientific topics	7	35%	13	65%	0	0%	2.35	0.49	20
3) Effective use of peer-reviewed scientific literature	2	10%	18	90%	0	0%	2.10	0.31	20

- 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

We did not make major curriculum modifications in AY 2015-2016.