

Learning Goals, Outcomes, And Measurement Tools

Biology

The following goals generally define the purpose of our program. The outcomes identified as a part of each goal demonstrate what students who complete our program will be able to do. The measurement tools describe how outcomes are assessed.

Learning Goal	Learner Outcomes	Measurement Tools
1. The biology program will provide biology and environmental biology majors with adequate academic and professional preparation for post-baccalaureate endeavors.	1. A high percentage of seniors when surveyed prior to graduation will report that they are well prepared for post-graduate endeavors.	Graduation survey
	2. A high proportion of alumni when surveyed five and ten years after graduation will report satisfaction with their preparation.	Post-graduation survey
	3. Majors in biology will be motivated to attend the department's seminar series and journal club meetings, both optional activities.	Records of attendance at the biology seminar and journal club
2. The biology program will provide biology and environmental biology majors with proficiency in the use of laboratory and/or field equipment and techniques.	1. Students given a self-evaluation of their laboratory and/or field skills will report increased proficiency in the use of equipment and techniques.	Pre- and post-surveys within individual courses
	2. Students will collect reliable laboratory data and produce laboratory reports that are justified by those data.	Inspection of laboratory reports
	3. Students will participate successfully in summer research and student internships at other internships, both at Saint Mary's and at other institutions.	Interviews with students and their summer supervisors after summer programs are completed
3. The biology program will provide biology and environmental biology majors with the ability to conduct original biological research and the skills necessary to write a scientific thesis containing (1) an explanation of the problem, (2) methods employed, (3) an analysis of data, and (4) conclusions.	1. A high proportion of students will demonstrate proficiency at research, writing, and oral presentation, as evaluated by their research advisors subsequent to the completion of their theses.	Post-thesis evaluation by research advisors of research, written thesis, and oral presentation at undergraduate research symposium, with evaluation rubric
4. The department will offer a selection of specifically designed general education courses that meet the needs of non-science majors.	Pending G.E.C.C. assessment review	Pending G.E.C.C. assessment review