

## Program-Level Assessment: Annual Report

Program:College/School: College of Arts & Sciences

Date (Month/Year): September 2021

Primary Assessment Contact: Elena Bray Speth

In what year was the data upon which this report is based collected? 2020-2021

In what year was the program's assessment plan most recently reviewed/updated? 2018

### 1. Student Learning Outcomes

Which of the program's student learning outcomes were assessed in this annual assessment cycle?

The programmatic Student Learning Outcomes adopted by the department's faculty in 2017 for the BA and BS in Biology are:

**Bachelor of Arts** - Students earning a B.A. in Biology will be able to:

- 1) Effectively apply core biological concepts to solve problems
- 2) Critically evaluate scientific information from multiple sources, including that from the primary literature
- 3) Apply biological principles to global societal issues
- 4) Draw valid conclusions from quantitative data
- 5) Formulate hypotheses that address research questions
- 6) Correctly perform common laboratory and/or field techniques

**Bachelor of Science** - In addition to 1 -

2.

**5. Findings: Interpretations & Conclusions**

What have you learned from these results? What does the data tell you?

n/a

**6. Closing the Loop: Dissemination and Use of Current Assessment Findings**

**A.** When and how did your program faculty share and discuss these results and findings from this cycle of assessment?

As we mentioned in our last assessment report, our department has been slowly emerging from a period of significant changes and disruptions, which began with the fire and destruction of Macelwane Hall in 2017. We were barely beginning to recover from that crisis when the Covid pandemic started, which significantly hindered our re-establishment of normal departmental and committee activities. In fact, we moved 10 faculty research labs back into Macelwane Hall during the pandemic.

In August 2021 we had our very first in-person retreat with the whole faculty. At the retreat, we shared the 2020 assessment report and the feedback we received on it. The faculty had a conversation about recruiting additional members to the Assessment Committee, and about taking some time to reflect on our current undergraduate learning outcomes and assessment plans.

**B.** How specifically have you decided to use these findings to improve teaching and learning in your program? For example, perhaps you've initiated one or more of the following:

Changes to the Curriculum or Pedagogies

Course content  
Teaching techniques  
Improvements in technology  
Prerequisites

Course sequence  
New courses  
Deletion of courses

If no changes are being made, please explain why.

N/A

**7. Closing the Loop: Review of Previous Assessment Findings and Changes**

**A.** What is at least one change your program has implemented in recent years as a result of assessment data?

N/A