

**OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR: Director, Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Program; 136 Ag Hall, x45395

MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Mission

The mission of the Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Major is to help meet society's needs and student demand by providing educational services in the environmentally related sciences in order to understand complex problems and formulate integrated, and comprehensive solutions that respond to society's needs.

Program Goals

1. Provide an effective, rigorous, and dynamic science-based program that will attract, motivate, and prepare students to meet environmentally related challenges.
2. Provide a broad and general education to enhance personal development.
3. Instill an appreciation and working knowledge of the complexity and the diversity of social values and viewpoints in regard to environmental challenges.

Instructional Goals

Upon completion of one of the curriculum options in the Environmental Science Major all students are expected to demonstrate the following:

1. Leadership in a variety of careers associated with environmental problems and issues.
2. A strong background in basic and applied sciences, and applied mathematics.
3. A broad and integrated understanding of environmental issues from economic, social, and political standpoints.
4. Interdisciplinary skills required for analyzing and solving current and future environmental problems in keeping with societal needs.
5. The ability and creativity to assimilate new knowledge in solving future problems.
6. The ability to communicate effectively on technical and non-technical levels.
7. A commitment to life-long learning.
8. A high level of satisfaction with their academic experience.

DESIRED STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students demonstrate their ability to select and integrate elements of the biological, physical, and social sciences in the solution of environmental problems by earning a grade of "C" or better in "Environmental Science Applications and Problem Solving" (ENVR 4813) and a score of seven or greater from the client of their capstone project.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The assessment will be based on information gathered from the following sources: (The numbers in parentheses relate to the objectives most closely assessed.)

- **Grades and “Client Reports” from Environmental Science Applications and Problem Solving (ENVR 4813).** Grades and “Client Reports” from Environmental Science Applications and Problem Solving (ENVR 4813) will be the bases for measuring the level of student performance in achieving the Desired Student Outcomes. (Instructional Goals 2,3,4,5,6)
- **Exit interviews of seniors at the time of graduation.** All graduating seniors will be required to meet on an individual basis with the Associate or Assistant Dean for Academic Programs. An informal summary of these interviews, supported by written notes, will be made of the students' perceptions of the curriculum, advisement, extra curricular opportunities, job placement, and other services. An annual summary of the exit interviews will be prepared. (Program Goals 1,2,3; Instructional Goals 1,7,8)
- **Placement statistics compiled by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Career Services Office.** Placement statistics for Environmental Science majors will be used to develop an understanding of the degree of difficulty graduates are having finding employment in the profession and the types of employment available to graduates of the program. (Instructional Goals 1,2,3,4,7)
- **Recruitment data compiled by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Student Services Office.** Recruitment statistics for the Environmental Science major will be used to develop an understanding of the sources of students entering the major and their backgrounds. (Program Goals 1; Instructional Goals 1,6,7)
- **Retention data compiled by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.** Retention data will be used with recruiting data to develop an understanding of the source of students entering the Environmental Science major and the conditions that lead students to leave the major. (Program Goals 1,2; Instructional Goals 1,7,8)
- **Statistics on enrollment, degrees conferred, faculty survey, and placement compiled by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources for the FAEIS report.** The statistics on enrollment, degrees conferred, faculty survey, and placement will be utilized with information from the other sources identified in this plan in the overall assessment of the status of the program. (Program Goals 1-3; Instructional Goals 1-8)
- **Employer interviews conducted by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Career Services Office.** Employer interviews will concentrate on gathering and summarizing information on employer expectations for entry-level professionals and experience with graduates from the Environmental Science major. (Instructional Goals 1-6)
- **Alumni surveys conducted by the Office of University Assessment.** In addition to the survey's of alumni one and two years after graduation, and five and six years after graduation, the Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Program will contract with the Office of University Assessment to survey alumni 10 and 11 years after graduation. The results of these surveys will be used with the employer surveys to develop an understanding the employment history and performance of graduates from the Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Program. (Instructional Goals 1-6)

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Report Preparation. A draft annual report summarizing the information from the sources identified will be prepared, based on information that is available on May first, by the Director, Environmental Sciences Undergraduate Program. This draft is to be consistent with the report requirements specified by The Office of University Assessment and is the basis of for an assessment of the Program by the Environmental Sciences Steering Committee. The Steering Committee's assessment is incorporated into the draft report and becomes the "Outcomes Assessment Report that is submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and The Office of University Assessment by the June first deadline.

Application of Outcomes Assessment. This "Outcomes Assessment Report" is a foundation document for discussions between the Steering Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Programs to define future objectives and appropriate resources. The objectives and resulting actions will be summarized in future "Outcomes Assessment Reports".

DKL - 10-Dec-02