

## Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

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Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
B.S. –Entomology M.S. –Entomology M.S. Plant Pathology Ph.D. Entomology <i>Ph.D. Plant Pathology</i>	Written and oral exit interviews in addition to information from Curriculum Vitae on professional placement.	1 (2 graduated) 2 (3 graduated) 2 (3 graduated) 1 (1 graduated) 0 graduated this year

### Analysis and Findings:

A copy of the written exit interview is available upon request. All students were given or mailed written forms and several attempts were made to retrieve those forms. Oral interviews were conducted by the Department Head as follow-ups to the written instrument. Interviews allowed graduates to comment freely about concerns or suggested improvements for the program.

The small samples sizes of interviews from the five degree programs preclude any summary statistics or statistical analyses. All exit interview responses were positive; the following summary reports the average numerical score (1=Excellent, to 4=Poor) given for departmental faculty and their instruction. The one B.S. Entomology student, 1.5; the one M.S. Entomology student, 1.5; second M.S. Entomology student, 1.0; first M.S. Plant Pathology student, 1.4; second M.S. Plant Pathology student, 1.4; the one Ph.D. Entomology student, 1.0. All respondents were pleased with the support services offered in the Department and elsewhere in the University. All graduates but one from the past year are placed in professional positions in their fields of study; four went on to pursue graduate degrees, three have positions as government or university research scientists, and one undergraduate was unaccounted for.

The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology is a predominantly graduate education and research department, with significant responsibilities to both the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service. The one undergraduate degree program, in Entomology, has only a few graduates a year, but substantial undergraduate instruction occurs through numerous courses offered as requirements for other majors in the College and for General Education outside the College. As a predominantly research department most of the comments we hear from students deal with research experiences they had in the department.

### Uses of Assessment Results:

Responses from exit interviews, together with results from the OSU Student Survey of Instruction, are used each year to aid faculty in revisions and updating of their course materials. Since a major revision of the departmental curriculum was completed over the past five years, we do not foresee substantial changes in course material outside of yearly revisions done by most faculty.

Two initiatives in program improvement surfaced following recent assessment evaluation. First, we plan to develop a new undergraduate internship program within the department. Exit interviews of graduates over the years have pointed to the value of research and other practical experiences undergraduates receive while employed as laboratory and program assistants by various faculty. Our concept is to promote these experiences by allowing students to enroll in either ENTO 4800, Undergraduate Traineeship, or PLP 4400, Undergraduate Research, for 1-3 credits as an internship in a faculty program for which there is a defined objective, executable practice, and a delivered product at the end of the semester. We feel that the formalized internship would be an incentive for more undergrads to pursue these experiences with faculty and thus to strength their potential for future professional placement. We will develop this internship concept over the coming year. Second, we feel it is important to develop a comprehensive historical database of our graduates from the past 20 years. Entomology and Plant Pathology are highly specialized fields in which our graduates eventually find positions in practice (as pest or resource managers), research, teaching or outreach. Graduate research degree programs resulting in a Ph.D. require several years of study, and typically these are followed by postdoctoral positions and other entry-level positions for several years. A valid assessment of the impact of our program on a former student may not occur until several years from the time a student leaves OSU, when he or she settles into a permanent position. This may also be the case for B.S. graduates who may have discontinuous training and job experiences after OSU. A comprehensive data base constructed from a current survey instrument administered to alumni will aid us in tracking our graduates and give us relevant information about the outcomes from our programs from those who have matured professionally. We will request funding for OUA for this purpose.