

**Botany Department**  
Prepared by Becky Johnson

Degree Programs Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
B.S. Botany	National standardized exams	0
B.S. Biology	Focus groups	14
M.S. Botany	Satisfaction surveys	21
Ph.D. Plant Sciences	Tracking of grades in required upper division courses	27
	Alumni surveys	189 sent/ 7 replied
	Presentations at seminars	4

**Assessment Methods**

***Undergraduate Degree Programs***

Direct Assessment

**Standardized national exams:** No scores on the GRE were made available to the department by our undergraduates.

**Medical College Admission Test:** no MCAT scores were made available to the department.

Indirect Assessment

**Focus groups:** An assessment focus group was held from 12:30-1:30 on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2003. There is continuing interest in evolution and we offered another evolution seminar in Spring of 2004.

Students would like a one-hour course on experimental design. They also want a "Biological Orientation" class with short exercises in doing literature review, making presentations and writing.

**Student satisfaction surveys:** Surveys were given out to seniors by their advisor, but none were returned.

**Alumni surveys:** Survey forms were sent through the Bluestem newsletter to 189 alumni. We received seven replies: three from retirees, one indicating change in family status, and three indicating a change in career.

**Tracking of grades in required upper division courses:** Fifteen botany majors and eight randomly selected biology majors were tracked with respect to the grades they received in required upper division biology and botany courses. Of the grades received by botany majors in 54 courses, 25 were A's, 16 were B's, 12 were C's and one was a D.

Of seven grades received by the eight biology majors, two were A's, three were B's, one was a C, and there was one F.

**Tracking of employment success:** One Botany B.S. student accepted a job as a botanist at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. One student who earned a Botany B.S. and later earned a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Science is currently interviewing for faculty teaching positions. A Biology B.S. student has accepted a job as a research assistant at Lynntech, Inc., College Station, Texas.

***Graduate Degree Programs***

Direct Assessment

**Thesis Defense:** Three students completed their M.S. degrees this year and successfully passed their thesis defense. One student successfully completed his Ph.D. degree and passed his dissertation defense.

**Seminar presented as part of the departmental seminar:** Four graduate students presented seminars on their thesis research. All were able to answer questions asked by faculty and other students after their presentations. All exhibited the ability to present results of their work in the format used at professional scientific meetings.

#### Indirect Assessment

**Alumni surveys:** Five surveys that were sent out with the Bluestem newsletter were returned.

**Track employment success:** Two of the Botany M.S. students are going on to other universities to work on a Ph.D. in Botany. Two Botany M.S. students are looking for employment in botany fields. One Botany M.S. student who received a Ph.D. from another university has just completed their first year as a tenure-track faculty at Western Kentucky University. The student who just finished his Plant Science Ph.D. will be employed in the fall at the State University of New York at Oneonta as a tenure-track botany faculty and herbarium curator. A Botany M.S. student is employed as the environmental manager at Chevron Phillips Chemical Company in The Woodlands, Texas.

**Track scholarly work:** Our Ph.D. student has created a Plant Biology lab manual that is now in publication and is to be used with our Plant Biology course. Graduate students made several presentations at professional meetings throughout the year, including the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

#### **Uses of Assessment Results**

The Botany Department does not have the resources to offer a course in plant evolution at this time. However, we will continue to offer a one-hour seminar as needed.

A presentation on sources of information to supplement textbooks will be made at a meeting of the Oklahoma State University Botanical Society next fall. All biology and botany majors will be invited.

The Botany Department also plans to offer a seminar on the professional side of Botany – making presentations, writing papers, interviewing for jobs.