

Part I. General Information

Program(s) Discussed:	Biology Majors: Biology; Cell & Molecular Biology; Environmental Science
Current Semester:	Spring 2015
Name of Assessment Coordinator:	Ralph Saporito

Part II. Assessment Process

Prompt: In no more than two pages, describe your program's progress toward a fully-functioning assessment system. What have you done during this academic year? What remains to be completed?

The Biology Department has three different majors: Biology; Cell and Molecular Biology; and Environmental Science. The department also has a Minor in Biology.

During the Fall 2014 semester (and Spring 2015 for the Biology Minor), the department developed Assessment Plans for all 3 majors and our minor. The Assessment Plans were constructed with input from all faculty in the Biology Department, and were discussed at length during numerous faculty meetings. The Assessment Plans for the 3 majors were placed on the Biology website at the end of the Fall 2014 semester (<http://sites.jcu.edu/biology/pages/biology-department-assessment-plans/>), and can be downloaded and viewed as PDFs.

During the Spring 2015 semester, the department developed an Assessment Score Sheet to begin collecting data on assessment in our three majors and minor. The score sheet is a rubric that is based on the Learning Outcomes and Performance Indicators that are spelled out in our Assessment Plans for each major (see attached Assessment Score Sheet), and was constructed with input from all faculty in the department during two faculty meetings and numerous e-mail exchanges. All of the full-time faculty in Biology were given the score sheet, and asked to collect data in their respective courses for the Spring 2015 semester. It was our goal to "pilot" our assessment rubric with data from the entire semester, and then make improvements and changes as necessary, before our full assessment period. There have already been some minor suggestions for improvement that we plan to implement during our full assessment period. At this point, as the Assessment Coordinator, I am beginning to compile the data from the score sheets, in order to begin a thorough analysis of our assessment data. This process will take a portion of the summer, and it is my goal to combine these data into a form that is available to all in the department. At this point, we will meet as a department (likely at the beginning of Fall 2015) to discuss the results. In addition, it is expected that we will modify our assessment data collection and analysis approach for our full assessment period.

Part III. Assessment Reporting

Prompt: All programs must have completed their first Annual Assessment Report by May 15, 2016. When do you plan to file your first Annual Assessment Report?

Biology plans to submit our first Annual Assessment Report by the end of April 2016.