

Academic Minor in ENTOMOLOGY
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
 Kansas State University

A. College, Department, and Date

College: Agriculture
 Department: Entomology
 Date: November 23, 2009

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

Tom Phillips, Department Head
 Jim Nechols, Coordinator, Entomology Minor Program

C. Degree Program

Minor in Entomology

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

a. List (or attach a list) all of the student learning outcomes for the program.

1. All students are expected to acquire a general knowledge of insect biology, including an ability to recognize major taxa and to understand how insects and related arthropods function physiologically and in the environment.
2. For each area of specialization (Horticulture, Agronomy, Animal Science, Grain Science, Biology, etc.), students should be able to show how pest and beneficial insects and related arthropods are important to their academic major and various options for managing them.

b. Identify outcomes that will be assessed in the first three years of the plan.

Both study learning outcomes listed under a., above, will be assessed.

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs (Undergraduate Programs)					Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Critical Thinking	Communication	Diversity	Academic / Professional Integrity	
1.	x					
2.	x					
3.						
4.						
5.						

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

We will use one direct and one indirect measure to assess student learning (level of knowledge) for SLO #1 and one indirect measure for SLO #2.

DIRECT. We will administer a “before and after” test to assess knowledge. The “before” (pre) test will be administered at the earliest date after students have declared interest in obtaining the Entomology Minor degree. The “after” (post) test will be given during the last semester before the student graduates.

INDIRECT. During the final semester before graduation, and after all coursework for the minor is completed or nearly complete, the Department Head or the Coordinator will interview the student about his/her general knowledge and knowledge relative to his/her specialty within the minor for entomology. This interview will be based on a standard set of questions for consistency.

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Outcomes will be assessed as described under 2., above. For SLO #1, the Coordinator will administer and keep on file the pre- and post-tests and scores. For SLO #2, the Department Head or Coordinator will summarize impressions of the student interview in writing. Annually, the Coordinator and Department Head will meet with the departmental Course and Curriculum Committee to review the results with the student name(s) withheld to help maintain anonymity. Over multiple years, discussion will focus on any emergent trends (i.e., increasing or decreasing scores).

4. What is the unit’s process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

General results will be shared with the entire faculty, and with individual faculty if/when a need for changes in specific courses may be indicated to improve student learning. The Department, via the Coordinator for the Entomology Minor Program and the Course and Curriculum Committee, will review the need for improving the assessment test. However, we will endeavor to create a fair and representative assessment test at the outset and keep this in place until at least 10 students have completed the minor. Otherwise it will not be possible to develop time trends in student learning.