

Department of Entomology  
Kansas State University

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received

**A. College, Department, and Date**

College: Agriculture  
Department: Entomology  
Date: November 11, 2004

**B. Contact Person for the Assessment Plans**

Dr. Sonny B. Ramaswamy, Head, Entomology

**C. Degree Program**

Non-thesis M.S. in Entomology

**D. Assessment Plans for the Student Learning Outcomes that will be addressed in the Next Three Years**

**1. Student Learning Outcomes**

**Each student is required to demonstrate:**

- a. A knowledge of the four core areas of entomology-taxonomy, integrated pest management, physiology and ecology
- b. An in-depth knowledge in area of specialization
- c. General knowledge of current issues and methods in science and technology.
- d. The ability to present scientific information and research ideas in both written and oral formats.

**2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed?**

- (a) The core of entomological knowledge will be assessed via written and oral preliminary exams that the Department requires of every Non-thesis M.S. student. The Department Head, who serves as the Graduate Student Coordinator, will fill out and keep on file anonymous ratings of general student performance, which will be compiled and used to track trends over time. Mastery of core knowledge will also be assessed indirectly by tracking course grades in each core area (ecology, taxonomy, physiology, and integrated pest management). A better and more direct means of evaluating successful learning

will be to encourage instructors to develop assessments of knowledge at the outset of graduate courses which would then be compared to the assessment(s) made during and after the course has been completed (before/after, pre- vs. post-test).

- (b) In depth knowledge of student specialty area(s) will be measured by multiple criteria, including grades in specialization courses, and the report defense.
- (c) General knowledge of current issues and methods in biology and science will be assessed during the defense, and a categorical ranking of this knowledge (e.g., high, intermediate, poor) will be kept on file for all students anonymously.
- (d) The ability to present scientific information and research ideas in both written and oral formats will be evaluated by graded evaluation sheets following the defense.

**3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When will the results of the assessments be discussed?**

Outcomes will be assessed each semester or whenever students make oral presentations. Results of the assessments will be accumulated and compiled after two years and then shared with the faculty, students, and administration (e.g., College and Graduate School).

**4. What is the unit's plan for improving students' learning?**

Our plan for improving student learning will be fourfold. First, we will evaluate our standards of excellence relative to each student learning outcome (SLO) and assessment tool to ensure that adequate standards have been set. Second, we will do a short-term evaluation of student performance relative to these standards. Third, as data accumulate over time, we will determine which, if any, of our SLOs are declining, and/or consistently not meeting our standards of excellence. Fourth, any SLO identified as needing improvement will be reevaluated to improve the method(s) by which that SLO is being achieved. We will also continue to evaluate the assessment tools we are using and make changes as needed.