

After collecting a number of years of data on SLO 1 and 2 which are shared among the three degree programs, the faculty members in Biology have made a number of strides in improving student learning. For all of the courses being assessed, student learning is meeting the expectations of the faculty. The development of common learning objectives for Biol 201 (Organismic Biology) and Biol 450 (Modern Genetics), and the enhancement of the laboratory manual for Biol 455 (Microbiology) and Biol 201 is helping student achievement. The implementation of student response systems in Biol 201, Biol 450 and Biol 455 has enhanced student engagement. With the stabilization of faculty members who are teaching Biol 450, and the addition of practicum students in that class, there seems to be an improvement in student learning gains. This will need to be monitored for the next couple of years.

The assessment coordinator realizes the need to maintain a constant awareness of the need by the faculty to report on the assessment of student learning. The past year has been difficult with regards to collecting data from the faculty. In the coming academic year, a new person will be trained in assessment of student learning with the goal of that person taking over the coordinator of assessment for the Division of Biology. We will continue to collect data for Biol 201, 450 and 455 using the pre and post assessment test in order to track long term changes in student learning.