

Program Review and Assessment Committee (PRAC)
University Curriculum Forum

Undergraduate Program Review Report: Department of Biology

The Department of Biology submitted their self-study report to UCF on November, 2008. After discussions with Dr. Carlos Ramirez, Assessment Coordinator, PRAC suggested revisions which were incorporated into a revised submittal on January 27, 2009.

The Program Review and Assessment Committee (PRAC) reviewed the revised documentation for the Undergraduate Program in Biology and offers the following appraisal.

Standard 1 - The department/program's mission supports the university's mission.

√ Met

The mission of the Department of Biology to provide students with the very highest quality of biology education in both undergraduate and graduate programs is in alignment with the University's mission of academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good.

Standard 2 - The department/program has clearly stated program goals and objectives

√ Met

The Department of Biology has identified six basic goals and expected outcomes for biology majors and a general goal of providing a high quality educational experience in their service courses.

Standard 3 - The department/program has clearly stated program-level expected student outcomes and methods for measurement

√ Met

According to their self-study, assessment of the Biology program will measure student-learning outcomes starting with the entry-level courses, assessing progress in their junior year and a final assessment in their senior year. Students will complete a Beginner Biology Evaluation, an Exit Biology Evaluation as juniors, and will choose one of three pathways as a Senior Year Experience. A commendable attempt is being made to align library resources with student outcomes. Suggestions for tracking graduates, including the development of an alumni survey and a departmental webpage, are included.

Summary

The Program Review and Assessment Committee thanks the Department of Biology and Drs. Smith and Ramirez for the effort put forth in the preparation and presentation of the self-study report. PRAC recommends that as the department moves forward in the assessment process, the document should be restructured to accomplish better alignment of goals, expected outcomes and measurements. PRAC recommends to the University Curriculum Form that APPROVAL be granted to the Undergraduate Program in Biology.

Report submitted by the following PRAC members: I. Antonios, M. Cameron, C. Coron (PRAC co-chair), M. Fede, S. Felsenfeld, O. Gulacar, M. Hartog, P. Kahlbaugh, T. Lin, R. Narumanchi, D. Pettigrew, T. Radice, L. Rebesch (PRAC co-chair), & E. West

February 26, 2009