

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
SUMMARY FORM AY 2004-2005

Degree and Program Name: Master of Science in Natural Sciences

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Please complete a separate worksheet for each academic program (major, minor) at each level (undergraduate, graduate) in your department. Worksheets are due to CASA this year by **June 1**. Worksheets should be sent electronically to cskjs@eiu.edu and should also be submitted to your college dean. For information about assessment or help with your assessment plans, visit the Assessment webpage at <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/> or contact Karla Sanders in CASA at 581-6056.

PART ONE

What are the learning objectives?	How, where, and when are they assessed?	What are the expectations?	What are the results?	Committee/ person responsible? How are results shared?
1. Students will develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills associated with advanced conceptual knowledge in biological sciences, chemistry, geology/geography or physics. These skills will be used to enhance their personal knowledge base as it applies to secondary science teaching.	Successful completion of course work with a grade of B or higher and project presentations.	90% of students will pass courses with a grade of B or higher; 90% of students will successfully present projects.	100% of students passed courses with a grade of B or higher and successfully presented projects during Summer Terms 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.	Graduate faculty who teach in the MSNS program; MSNS coordinator. MSNS coordinator will tabulate data and share it with the MSNS Advisory Committee.
2. Students will demonstrate appropriate laboratory techniques to enhance their teaching and laboratory skills.	Laboratory exercises, laboratory examinations, graduate research projects.	90% of students will demonstrate appropriate use of laboratory equipment to enhance teaching and laboratory skills in graduate courses and in graduate research projects.	100% of students have demonstrated appropriate use of laboratory equipment to enhance teaching and laboratory skills in graduate courses and graduate research projects during Summer Terms 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.	Graduate faculty who teach in the MSNS program; faculty research mentors. MSNS coordinator will tabulate data and share it with the MSNS Advisory Committee.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and conduct an original research	Students prepare an original research proposal based on thesis project or a science education	95% of students will submit proposals that will be evaluated as "worthy" of	100% of thesis project proposals have been evaluated as "worthy."	Thesis proposals are reviewed by the thesis advisor and graduate

project in science or science education.	project to be conducted in a secondary science classroom. Thesis proposals are evaluated at the end of the first summer of study. Science education projects are evaluated Fall or Spring term prior to the last summer of study.	graduate level research projects.	Evaluation of a written science project proposal will begin Summer 2005.	student committee. Science education project proposals are evaluated by the MSNS coordinator. MSNS coordinator will tabulate data and share it with the MSNS Advisory Committee.
4. Students will demonstrate appropriate oral presentation skills in conjunction with current and/or innovative practices in science and science education.	Students will present an oral seminar in SCI 5005 (<i>Seminar for Natural Sciences Teachers</i>) detailing the results of their thesis or special projects research.	90% of the students will pass SCI 5005 with a grade of B or higher.	100% of the students have passed SCI 5005 with a grade of B or higher during Summer Terms 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.	MS Natural Sciences Coordinator, thesis advisor, and graduate student committee. MSNS coordinator will tabulate data and share it with the MSNS Advisory Committee.

(Continue objectives as needed. Cells will expand to accommodate your text.)

PART TWO

Describe what your program's assessment accomplishments since your last report was submitted. Discuss ways in which you have responded to the CASA Director's comments on last year's report or simply describe what assessment work was initiated, continued, or completed.

Suggestions made by the CASA Director on last year's report have been addressed. We continue to evaluate our students using the evaluation form used for the past five years.

PART THREE

Summarize changes and improvements in **curriculum, instruction, and learning** that have resulted from the implementation of your assessment program. How have you used the data? What have you learned? In light of what you have learned through your assessment efforts this year and in past years, what are your plans for the future?

The core for the MSNS program was changed during Spring Semester 2005 and is in effect for new students in the program beginning Summer Term 2005. The concentrations available were reduced from six to two (Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences). The requirements for the MSNS program in Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences were revised during Spring Semester 2005 and are in effect for new students in the program beginning Summer Term 2005.

Schedule changes have been implemented effective Summer 2005. We have moved from 2 four week sessions to 1 six week session. We offer one less BIO class, one less SCI core class, and one less CHM and PHY class. We offer BIO classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and physical science classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Core classes are offered during the evening hours. With these schedule changes we hope to make this program more monetarily efficient. The impact on curriculum, instruction and learning will be addressed at the end of the six week term through the use of the survey implemented every year since the inception of the program.