

**Biology Department Assessment of Program Learning Outcomes
MA and MS in General biology
2014-2015**

Learning Outcome:

PLO #4: Distinguish between science and faith, and discuss the potential compatibility of the two domains.

Outcome Measure:

Indirect assessment: Alumni survey question

Criteria for Success:

At least 80% of students will “strongly agree” that they are able to "Distinguish between science and faith, and discuss the potential compatibility of the two domains” as a result of the program.

Longitudinal Data:

June 2015 survey results (n=14):

35% strongly agreed with the statement

57% agreed with the statement

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The survey was sent to 28 students who graduated within the last 5 years; 14 (50%) students responded. The criterion was not met, so changes need to be made.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

While this is a small data set, it may suggest that a more intentional and explicit effort needs to be made to be sure that this PLO is met in the future. Two new signature assignments with rubrics will be implemented in Fall 2015 in BIO 633 (History & Philosophy of Science). When this course was last offered in Fall 2013, students held informal discussions on this topic, but these were not assessed.

In addition, it is unclear whether the students are even aware of the Program Learning Outcomes, so a point will be made to clearly link this outcome to the activities in BIO 633.

Rubric used:

none