

Assessment Report –BIOLOGY 2008-2009

Rosemont College --Undergraduate

I. General information:

Date of Report: May 11, 2009
Semesters or Academic Years Covered: 2008-2009
Division:
Department: Biology
Chair or Person Preparing the Report: Aikaterini Skokotas

II. Departmental Profile:

Number of Majors: 40
Number of Faculty: 2 *full time*
1 *part time*

Courses Offered in the Assessment Period:

BIO-0102 Life Science I and Laboratory, BIO-0103 Life Science II and Lab, BIO-0200 Microbiology and Laboratory, BIO-0220 Genetics and Laboratory, BIO-0400 Molecular Genetics, BIO-0245 Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology I, BIO-0250 Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology II, BIO-0235 Nutrition, BIO-0340 Virology, BIO-0450 Introductory Research, BIO-0460 Biology Internship and BIO-0421 Senior Seminar

Factors that Affect Assessment:

III. Assessment results

A. Learning Outcomes for Majors

This year we collected data dealing with Goal I, Objective 1. Please refer to plan for details.

B. Assessment of Majors

Our 14 graduates achieved a raw score average of 151 +/-9 falling within the range of the national mean score of 153 +/- 13.1. The score of 151 is slightly lower than the Rosemont median of 154. Also, 92.8% (13 out of 14) of the students' scores fall within or above the range of the national mean thereby satisfying the requirement of the outcome. One student scored below the range of the national mean.

The ETS test is further divided into 4 subgroups.

- In subgroup 1 (Cell biology), students scored on average score of 57 falling within the national average score of 53.8 +/- 13.2. 85.7% (12 out 14) of the

students' scores fall within or above the range of the national mean thereby satisfying the requirement of the outcome.

- In subgroup 2 (Molecular biology/Genetics) students scored on average score of 55 falling within the national average score of 54 +/- 13.1. 92.8% (13 out 14) of the students' scores fall within or above the range of the national mean thereby satisfying the requirement of the outcome.
- In subgroup 3 (Organismal biology), students scored on average score of 49 falling within the national average score of 54 +/- 13.5. 78.5% (11 out 14) of the students' scores fall within or above the range of the national mean thereby satisfying the requirement of the outcome.
- In subgroup 4 (Population Biology /Ecology /Evolution) students scored on average score of 47 falling within the national average score of 55 +/- 13.2. 71.4% (10 out 14) of the students' scores fall within or above the range of the national mean thereby satisfying the requirement of the outcome.

C. Changes Based on Assessment

According to the raw ETS scores, our students performed well and their scores fell within or above the national mean. Subgroup ETS scores were consistently higher in Cell biology and Molecular/Genetics reinforcing the strength of the department in these areas. The subgroup scores in the Organismal and Population Biology /Ecology /Evolution sections were lower but still fell within the range of the national mean. One reason for these lower scores is that the ETS exam emphasizes plant biology, an area not well covered in our courses.

D. Recommendations for Improving the Assessment Process

- a. No changes are recommended at this time.
- b. Courses in Ecology and Environmental studies could help strengthen our program in the area of plant biology. However, these courses are a part of the Environmental Science Track which currently is not funded.