Program (Major, Minor, Core): MA
Department: Biology
College/School: A&S
Person(s) Responsible for Implementing the Plan: Susan Spencer (Graduate Program Director), members of the Department of Biology Graduate Affairs Committee: Judy Ogilvie, Brian Downes, Yuqi Wang, Fenglian Xu, Dan Warren
Date Submitted: November 15, 2015

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<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
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<td>What do you expect all students who complete the program to know, or be able to do?</td>
<td>Where is the outcome learned/assessed (courses, internships, student teaching, clinical, etc.)?</td>
<td>How do students demonstrate their performance of the program learning outcomes? How does the program measure student performance? Distinguish your direct measures from indirect measures.</td>
<td>How does the program use assessment results to recognize success and &quot;close the loop&quot; to inform additional program improvement? How/when is this data shared, and with whom?</td>
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<td>Students will have broad knowledge of biological principles. Students will be able to read, interpret, and critique primary research articles.</td>
<td>Students complete a coursework sequence tailored to their interests and guided by their faculty mentor. Students are required to take two semesters of EES or CMR Seminar (BIOL5820/5840), which is designed to give students practice reading, interpreting and presenting primary literature papers. Elective graduate courses also include work to improve students' ability to read and interpret primary literature.</td>
<td>Courses are graded by faculty based on individual rubrics. A passing grade indicates adequate knowledge of the material. Students are required to maintain a 3.0 grade point average to have good standing in the graduate program.</td>
<td>Coursework offerings are evaluated every 3 years by the Program Director in consultation with faculty active in the Biology program, the Graduate Affairs Committee, and the Curriculum Committee for the Department of Biology.</td>
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1. **It is not recommended** to try and assess (in depth) all of the program learning outcomes every semester. It is best practice to plan out when each outcome will be assessed and focus on 1 or 2 each semester/academic year. Describe the responsibilities, timeline, and the process for implementing this assessment plan.

   These outcomes will be assessed every 3 years when coursework outcomes are assessed for the MS and PhD programs.

2. **Please explain how these assessment efforts are coordinated with Madrid (courses and/or program)?**

   The Madrid campus does not have any science graduate programs.

3. **The program assessment plan should be developed and approved by all faculty in the department. In addition, the program assessment plan should be developed to include student input and external sources (e.g., national standards, advisory boards, employers, alumni, etc.). Describe the process through which your academic unit created this assessment plan. Include the following:**

   The assessment plan was produced by the Graduate Affairs committee of the Department of Biology in consultation with the department’s Chair and Associate Chair, and with comparisons to assessment programs for SLU’s Integrated and Applied Science Program and Department of Chemistry. This assessment plan represents a first draft, and still needs to be approved by the Biology Department faculty before it is implemented; it will be presented to the faculty of our department at our December, 2015 meeting.