Saint Louis University
Program Assessment Annual Reporting

It is recommended that program assessment results be used to celebrate achievements of student learning as well as to identify potential areas for future curriculum improvement.

Please email this completed form as an attachment to thatcherk@slu.edu
CAS PROGRAMS: Please email this completed form by July 1 to Donna LaVoie lavoiedj@slu.edu

1. Degree Program(s) included in this report: MA (coursework-based degree, non-thesis)
2. Department: Biology
3. School/Center/College: College of Arts and Sciences
4. Name(s): Jack Kennell (Interim-Chair), Susan Spencer (Graduate Program Director)
5. Email: kennellj@slu.edu, sspencer@slu.edu
6. Phone: 977-3905, 977-4091

Instructions: Please answer the following five questions to the best of your ability for each degree program offered within your department.

1. Summarize your assessment activities during the past year for each degree program and how this work relates to the established assessment plan (e.g. what program outcomes were assessed, faculty discussions, new survey design, data collection, revised assessment plans or learning outcomes, etc.). Please include how Madrid courses/program were involved.

Students in the MA program met with the graduate program director and underwent an annual review. Students were evaluated on the basis of their performances in coursework and their progress in completing the credit hours necessary to finish their degrees. The Madrid campus does not have any graduate programs in biology.

The evaluation of coursework performance is the primary activity used to assess the Program Learning Outcome for MA students, which is:
Students will have broad knowledge of biological principles. Students will be able to read, interpret, and critique primary research articles.

2. Describe specific assessment findings related to the learning outcomes assessed for each degree program, including any pertinent context surrounding the findings. Please include the learning outcomes themselves. (e.g. Our goal was that 75% of students performed at the “proficient” level of competency in problem solving, using a new scoring rubric. 81% of students performed at the “proficient” level in problem solving, exceeding our expectations.) Do not include student-level data. Data included in this report should be in aggregate. Please include how Madrid courses/program were involved.

Students in the MA program are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA in their coursework, attend
Department Seminar and take two semesters of a topical seminar course to broaden their understanding of scientific research. 100% of the MA students in our program met these requirements in the 2015-16 school year. Three students graduated from our program with the MA degree this year.

*Please attach any tables, graphics, or charts to the end of this report.*

3. Describe how assessment feedback has been provided to students, faculty, and staff. (e.g. report for faculty, executive summary for the dean, web page for students, alumni newsletter, discussion with students in class or club event, etc.)

Students discuss their progress with the Graduate Program Director each semester. At these meetings, students receive direct feedback on their progress and suggestions for further coursework. Assessments of graduate students are shared with department faculty at our annual retreat (in August).

4. In what ways have you used assessment findings to celebrate student achievements and/or to improve the curriculum this past year? (e.g. prizes to students, hosting student parties, changes to curriculum, student projects, learning goals, assessment strategies, etc.)

Review of our assessments will impact our curriculum offerings in the coming year (e.g. how many sections of seminar to offer, which classes should be cross-listed with graduate sections).

5. Describe any changes to your assessment plans, or any challenges or educational experiences with the assessment process this past year that you would like to share.

No changes are planned at this time.

*Please submit any revised/updated assessment plans to the University Assessment Coordinator along with this report.*