# Program Assessment Plan

Program: M.S.
Department: Biology
College/School: Arts and Sciences
Date: 11-30-2017
Primary Assessment Contact: Dr. Thomas J. Valone

**Note:** Each cell in the table below will expand as needed to accommodate your responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Mapping</th>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
<th>Use of Assessment Data</th>
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</table>
| 1 | Students will be able to critically analyze primary literature articles by evaluating the scientific contributions of peer-reviewed publications in biology | BIOL 5820 Seminar in CMR  
BIOL 5840 Seminar in Ecology & Evol  
BIOL 5860 Scientific Communication  
BIOL 5990 Thesis Research | Written assignments and oral presentations in all of these courses | Every other fall, the Program-level assessment committee will report findings to the faculty. The committee will lead a discussion about how the data can inform changes to the program to improve student learning of the outcome. After a change has been made, we will assess the impact on student learning over the next 2 years. |
| 2 | Students will be able to effectively communicate scientific ideas | BIOL 5820 Seminar in CMR  
BIOL 5840 Seminar in Ecology & Evol  
BIOL 5860 Scientific Communication  
BIOL 5990 Thesis Research | Written assignments and oral presentations in all of these courses | Every other fall, the Program-level assessment committee will report findings to the faculty. The committee will lead a discussion about how the data can inform changes to the program |
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<tr>
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<th>Students will be able to demonstrate professional integrity</th>
<th>BIOL 5990 Thesis Research</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>to improve student learning of the outcome. After a change has been made, we will assess the impact on student learning over the next 2 years.</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Students will be able to use appropriate instrumentation and analytical methods to collect data</td>
<td>BIOL 5990 Thesis Research</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Every three years, the Program-level assessment committee will report findings to the faculty. The committee will lead a discussion about how the data can inform changes to the program to improve student learning of the outcome. After a change has been made, we will assess the impact on student learning over the next 3 years.</td>
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<td>Students will be able to draw statistically valid conclusions from quantitative data</td>
<td>BIOL 5990 Thesis Research</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Every 3 years, the Program-level assessment committee will report findings to the faculty. The committee will lead a discussion about how the data can inform changes to the program to improve student learning of the outcome. After a change has been made, we will assess the impact on student learning over the next 3 years.</td>
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**Additional Questions**

1. On what schedule/cycle will faculty assess each of the above-noted program learning outcomes? *(It is not recommended to try to assess every outcome every year.)*

   Outcomes 1 and 2 will be assessed every other year. Outcomes 3-5 will be assessed every 3 years.

2. Describe how, and the extent to which, program faculty contributed to the development of this plan.

   The Program-level assessment committee is comprised of 6 faculty members. The outcomes the committee developed were discussed at two faculty meetings and the faculty unanimously approved them.

3. On what schedule/cycle will faculty review and, if needed, modify this assessment plan?

   Every other year, the program-level assessment committee will meet to discuss how the plan is working for these outcomes. Each year the committee reports to the faculty and can recommend changes to the plan.

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*IMPORTANT: Please remember to submit any assessment rubrics (as noted above) along with this report.*