

## Annual Assessment Report

**Academic Year:** 2014–2015

**Department:** Ecology

**Program:** Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management

Based on our evaluation plan we examined program learning outcomes 1, 5, and 9 and compared student performance against established criteria.

### **1: Demonstrate effective written and oral communication**

We collected data on student performance in WILD 201, WILD 401, WRIT 201/221, and COM 110/CLS 101. In WILD 201, 90% of students exhibited fewer than five grammatical errors on written reports, surpassing our standard of 70%. In WILD 401 87% of students surpassed our standard on written reports. In WRIT 201/22 and COM 110/CLS 101 100% percent of students received a passing grade. We surmised that students were demonstrating the ability to communicate effectively both in written and oral forms.

### **5: Demonstrate an understanding of the process by which scientific knowledge is generated and evaluated**

We collected data on written assignment performance in WILD 401, and assessed student's mastery of scientific writing format and library skills for obtaining scientific information. Ninety-one percent of students performed at or above the 80% threshold.

### **9: Demonstrate a basic understanding of fish and wildlife management and conservation techniques**

We collected data on student performance in WILD 301, WILD 401, and BIOO 475. In WILD 301, 82 % of students successfully answered short answer essay questions on exams or True/False questions on the mid-term, exceeding our 70% threshold. In WILD 401, 78% of students exceeded the standard on written assignments, and in BIOO 475 95% of students answered selected questions correctly, exceeding the 75% threshold.

**Outcomes:** The Ecology faculty associated with the B.S. in Biological Sciences-Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management option have reviewed all our learning outcome assessments for our students and are satisfied that the required curriculum and the delivery of the individual classes within this curriculum are meeting all of our formal learning outcomes. Over the past ten years we have been making significant changes to the curriculum and the content of required classes taught by Ecology Department faculty as opportunities arise to improve the program of study for our students. Given the large enrollment in this option and the diversity of career tracks students with the B.S. in fish and wildlife management can pursue, the undergraduate curriculum is broad and strong in the formal sciences which give our students a strong foundation to pursue entry-level jobs in the field. They are learning what they need to learn and our program is widely recognized throughout the nation and among natural resource agencies across the western U.S. for its quality, strong emphasis on applied sciences, and employability of our graduates.