

Assessment of Student Learning Report

I. Introduction

A) College, Department, and date.

College of Agriculture, **Department of Entomology**, June 12, 2009.

B) Person(s) responsible for preparing the report.

Thomas W. Phillips, Professor, Department Head and Graduate Program Coordinator
Yoonseong Park, Associate Professor, Chair of Graduate Affairs Committee, 2008-09

II. Overview of Assessment

A) Summary of the Department's/Program's ORIGINAL approved Assessment Plan, including a list of the original approved Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

The most recent report for ASL was made in September 2008 as part of our Graduate Program Review Report for the Board of Regents re-accreditation for our graduate degree programs. ASL reports prior to that time were posted in 2004 and are referred to in Appendix A. We propose new SLOs with this report that are more in line with our recent GPRR to the BOR.

B) Summary of modifications made to the Assessment Plan during the previous four years.

The department has put significant levels of effort into designing the SLOs. However, the assessment of SLOs was not successfully implemented due to administrative and organizational changes in the department, and it was determined the assessment plan needed to be revised due to recent changes in the Department Graduate Student Policy. Indeed, earlier SLOs were overly ambitious with explicit measures including assessment exams for incoming students, pre-and post-tests within courses, research proposals and seminars, publication records, and exit interviews; these were considered excessive activities that were difficult to assess and track over time. Other contributing factors for non-implementation of the SLOs were: too many measures over each graduate student, lack of consistency in the tests, and lack of a clear method to collect and organize the output of SLO.

The newly proposed SLOs will measure up to 4 different learning outcomes (3 for M.S. student) by using 5 different methods: Preliminary exam, research proposal and proposal seminar, dissertation, and publication. We modified the preexisting rubrics for recording more details of the SLO categories. The modifications are incorporated into the forms for the research proposal seminar evaluation, preliminary exam evaluation, and dissertation. Most of all, we are currently developing a web-based database management system for

tracking assessment of SLOs by student and for all students in the department. This system will allow data entry by authorized person, browse and search features, and the ability to obtain the output reports with statistics.

C) List of the current SLOs for the Department/Program

New SLOs proposed for Entomology Ph.D. program in 2009

- a. the ability to design and execute scientifically sound research
- b. the ability to orally present scientific information and research ideas.
- c. the ability to write scientifically sound proposals and scientific publications
- d. develop a general knowledge of entomology and an in-depth knowledge in an area of specialization.

New SLOs proposed for Entomology M.S. thesis programs in 2009

- a. the ability to present scientific information and research ideas in oral and written formats.
- b. the ability to contribute to research proposals and conduct research under faculty supervision
- c. develop a general knowledge of entomology and a substantive knowledge in an area of specialization.

New SLOs proposed for Entomology M.S. non-thesis programs in 2009

- a. the ability to present scientific information and research ideas in oral and written formats.
- b. the ability to review scientific literature and develop one or more new ideas, conclusions or applications from the published work.
- c. develop a general knowledge of entomology and a deeper understanding in an area of specialization.

New SLOs for the Entomology Graduate Certificate in 2009

- a. obtain a breadth of thematic entomological knowledge acquired through coursework and experiential learning.
- b. develop an in-depth knowledge in an area of entomology that enhances their primary discipline.
- c. demonstrate the ability to present scientific information and research ideas orally.

D) Program Assessment Alignment Matrices

For Entomology Ph.D. program

	Preliminary exam	Written Research Proposal	Research Proposal Seminar	Dissertation	Publication
a. the ability to design and execute scientifically sound research		X	X	X	
b. the ability to orally present scientific information and research ideas.			X	X	
c. the ability to write scientifically sound proposals and scientific publications		X		X	X
d. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X	

For Entomology M.S. thesis program

	Final oral exam	Research Proposal	Research Proposal Seminar	Thesis	Publication
a. the ability to orally present scientific information and research ideas.			X	X	
b. the ability to write scientifically sound proposals and scientific publications		X		X	X
c. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X	

For Entomology M.S. non-thesis program

	Final oral exam	Written Project Proposal	Project Proposal Seminar	M.S. Report
a. the ability present scientific information and research ideas in written and oral formats.		X	X	X
b. the ability to review literature and develop new ideas, conclusions or applications	X			X
c. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X

For Entomology Graduate Certificate program

	Performance in 12 credit hours of Entomology coursework	Participation in Capstone Seminar course	Presentation of Capstone Seminar
a. obtain a breadth of entomological knowledge	X	X	
b. develop in-depth knowledge of area of entomology to enhance primary discipline	X	X	
c. demonstrate ability to present scientific information and research ideas orally.			X

E) List the website where the Program SLOs, Assessment summary, and Alignment Matrix for each degree program are located:

<http://entomology.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=145&tabid=33>

then click on “Students”, and on that page click “Assessment of Student Learning” to find these documents.

We are currently developing a web-based database management system for SLOs. This system will allow data entry by authorized persons, browsing and searches, and the ability to obtain the output with statistics.

III. Describe the actions and/or revisions that were implemented in response to the assessment results.

Implementing previous SLOs in our department was unsuccessful. The reasons for the failure include: original SLOs contained too many measures over each graduate student, lacked consistency in the tests, and lacked a central repository and a clear method to collect and organize the output of the assessments. All of these were realized while there was a change in Department Head and Graduate Coordinator.

The Faculty is working with the Department Head to review our assessment procedures and is exploring ways to most effectively keep data on assessments current and easily retrievable.

IV. Describe the effects on student learning of the actions and/or revisions.

Given that previous SLOs had not been implemented or assessed successfully, problems in the previous SLOs have been identified and revised. The department has developed a plan for establishing an effective means of web-based data collection and maintenance. It is difficult to address any direct effect at this transitional time.

Appendix A: Original Approved Assessment Plan—see 2004 documents posted at this same site.

Appendix B: Assessment Alignment Matrices

For Entomology Ph.D. program

	Preliminary exam	Written Research Proposal	Research Proposal Seminar	Dissertation	Publication
d. the ability to design and execute scientifically sound research		X	X	X	
e. the ability to orally present scientific information and research ideas.			X	X	
f. the ability to write scientifically sound proposals and scientific publications		X		X	X
d. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X	

For Entomology M.S. thesis program

	Final oral exam	Research Proposal	Research Proposal Seminar	Thesis	Publication
c. the ability to orally present scientific information and research ideas.			X	X	
d. the ability to write scientifically sound proposals and scientific publications		X		X	X
c. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X	

For Entomology M.S. non-thesis program

	Final oral exam	Written Project Proposal	Project Proposal Seminar	M.S. Report
a. the ability present scientific information and research ideas in written and oral formats.		X	X	X
b. the ability to review literature and develop new ideas, conclusions or applications	X			X

c. general knowledge of entomology and in-depth knowledge in area of specialization	X			X
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	--	--	---

For Entomology Graduate Certificate program

	Performance in 12 credit hours of Entomology coursework	Participation in Capstone Seminar course	Presentation of Capstone Seminar
a. obtain a breadth of entomological knowledge	X	X	
b. develop in-depth knowledge of area of entomology to enhance primary discipline	X	X	
c. demonstrate ability to present scientific information and research ideas orally.			X

Appendix C: Other relevant documents (none entered at this time).