

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary

General Science, BS

College of Natural Science and Mathematics

AY 2009-10 – 2013-14

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The General Science program is administered by the physics Department as a service to the University. It is separate from the other Physics programs (Physics BS, Physics MS, Physics PhD and Space Physics PhD) in that it has no specific courses offered for the GS degree in Physics. The Program works by the students choosing two “majors” from the sciences or a “major” and two “minors” again from the sciences plus other approved areas. While the “majors” and “minors” within the General Science degree are reduced from the full majors and minors in the individual disciplines, the overall program is as or more demanding than those in specific science areas. As such the students are well trained in a broader science sense. This can be very valuable for some future pursuits such as science education, interdisciplinary research, scientific support in industry (resource extraction etc). All of the courses are required for other degree programs.

The Physics Department has never done a SLOA for this program, so this report covers AY2009-10 through AY2013-14. During this period three students graduated, with another due to graduate in December 2014.

1. Assessment information collected

- a) Anecdotal discussions. Very positive in their training and preparation.
- b) Employment: 1 student at Pogo mine/Ruen Drilling, 1 student has been admitted to the Masters in education program in physics related jobs, and the status 2 of the other recent graduates is currently not known.

2. Conclusions drawn from the information summarized above

- a) Faculty who were familiar with the students expressed an overall very good - excellent opinion of their abilities.
- b) Students expressed satisfaction with their training and preparation.

The three graduating students all met or exceeded the assessment criteria.

3. Curricular changes resulting from conclusions drawn above

No curricular changes were proposed; however, we do propose the following changes to our SLOA procedures for this program:

- Develop an interim questionnaire for students to evaluate the program in an ongoing basis
- Develop a data base for employment of our graduates
- Establish a procedure that ensures that students submit a questionnaire upon graduation
- Establish a procedure that ensures that students submit a follow-up questionnaire 5 yrs. after graduation

4. Identify the faculty members involved in reaching the conclusions drawn above and agreeing upon the curricular changes resulting

The department continues to consider to all aspects of the SLOA process, up to and including the proposal and implementation of curricular changes, as a body of the whole. Discussions on curricular assessment are taken up via regular agenda item at the beginning of each fall, subsequent to the receipt and compilation of exit surveys.