

Outcomes Assessment: Summaries and Plans

Department of Biology and Wildlife

May 2012

Assessment Summaries AY 2010-2012

A. BS in Wildlife Biology and Conservation

1. We do not currently have a survey that is appropriate for our majors or graduates. This survey and a capstone experience continue to be topics of discussion for our faculty that need to be resolved.
2. We made major changes to our curriculum during this reporting period in an attempt to increase student retention and graduation rates and reduce time for degree completion. Specifically, we reduced our credit requirements from 130 to 120 while still meeting the certification conditions for The Wildlife Society. We also increased the diversity of offerings in some areas of education to reduce scheduling conflicts.

a. Program/Degree revisions

1. Reduced degree credit requirements from 130 to 120.
2. Added GEOS 101x and NRM 380 as alternatives for PHYS 103X to reduce scheduling conflicts.
3. Changed sequence and updated content of WLF 201 and WLF 303, which are now WLF 301 and WLF 322W, respectively.
4. Made WLF 425 an alternative course for BIOL 426 to reduce credit requirements and allow students to focus specific areas in their degree.
5. Made WLF 421 an alternative course for BIOL 425.
6. Organized BIOL 471, WLF 305, WLF 433, and WLF 469 into a suite of electives to emphasize these subject areas and reduced credit requirements.
7. Added ECON 235, HIST 411, and PS 447 to the list of possible options in policy to diversify these offerings, reduce scheduling conflicts, and still meet course requirements for Wildlife Society Certification.
8. Generalized and reduced the number of additional elective requirements by giving credit for any 300 level or higher elective in Biology, Wildlife Biology, Fisheries, Marine Science or Natural Resources Management and by only requiring one additional elective.

b. Course revisions

1. WLF 201 – Principles of Wildlife Management was changed to WLF 301 – Design of Wildlife Studies to more accurately reflect the intent and content of this course and provide students more time to prepare for the mathematical concepts required for this material. Content of WLF 301 is now exclusively study design.
2. WLF 303 – Wildlife Management Techniques was changed to WLF 322W – Principles and Techniques in Wildlife Management to provide an additional W option. Course content was revised to include more diverse, modern, and practical techniques.

c. Course additions

1. To reduce credit requirements no courses were added.
2. Several alternative courses were included in some subject areas to provide students additional scheduling options. The details of these options are listed in under program revisions.

d. Course deletions

1. NRM 101 was removed from the degree requirements to reduce credit requirements and reduce overlap with material now presented in WLF 101.