

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Interdisciplinary Ph.D.

(Modified March 2010)

Mission Statement: The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program is committed to providing quality graduate education through student-faculty collaboration in research and scholarly endeavor.

Goal Statement: Graduates will have a strong fundamental understanding of their academic disciplines; a rigorous, in-depth knowledge of their specialty; understanding of the principles that guide the design and execution of high-quality research; and experience in the design and execution of original research. Graduates will be able to effectively communicate knowledge of their discipline at a level appropriate for their peers and at a level appropriate for students or the public.

I. Intended Outcomes/Objectives

1. Graduates will have the skills and knowledge needed to be competent independent researchers.
2. Graduates will be prepared to teach in their field at the college or university level.
3. Graduates will have broad knowledge of research needs and standards in their discipline, such that they are qualified to be research managers at the senior executive level.
4. Graduates will have excellent oral and written communication skills.

II. Assessment Criteria and Procedures

1. All students must pass a written comprehensive exam, which assesses broad disciplinary knowledge, the ability to apply that knowledge to interdisciplinary questions, and in-depth knowledge of the field of specialization. [for all outcomes]
2. All students must pass an oral comprehensive exam, which usually follows the written examination and is often used to probe deficiencies identified during the written exam. [for all outcomes]
3. Students are required to write a dissertation interpreting the results of original research. [for outcomes 1, 2, and 4]
4. Students are required to pass an oral defense of the dissertation, which includes a public presentation. [for outcomes 2 and 4]
5. 80% of graduates seeking employment in fields relevant to their education will succeed within one year of graduation. [all outcomes]
6. 80% of graduates will be satisfied with the education they received through the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. [for all outcomes]

III. Implementation

1. Each comprehensive exam administered will be evaluated by the student's committee and a "Report on Comprehensive Examination" form submitted to the Graduate School. A representative of the Graduate School (outside examiner) will attend and prepare a written evaluation of the oral portion of the examination. These evaluations will be reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee and/or the Graduate Dean annually.
2. The student's advisory committee will assess research competence and written communication skills by reviewing progress of study, research and the writing of the dissertation annually, and an "Annual Progress Report of Advisory Committee" form will be submitted to the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School will review these annual reports.
3. A representative of the Graduate School (outside examiner) will prepare a written evaluation of each student's communication skills and the disciplinary content of the public oral dissertation defense. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee and/or Graduate Dean will review these evaluations annually.
4. The Graduate School will compile information on Interdisciplinary graduates' first employment. Every three years, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will examine the data.
5. One and three years after graduation, the Graduate School will ask Interdisciplinary graduates to complete a questionnaire, addressing their job search, employment, and satisfaction with the education received through the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee annually.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Interdisciplinary M.S.

Mission Statement: The Interdisciplinary M.S. Program is committed to providing quality graduate education through student-faculty collaboration in research and scholarly endeavor.

Goal Statement: Graduates will have a strong fundamental understanding of their disciplines; comprehensive knowledge of the specialty; understanding of the principles that guide the design and execution of high-quality research; and substantial research experience. Graduates will be able to teach and to communicate scientific issues to the public.

I. Intended Outcomes/Objectives:

1. Graduates will be prepared to undertake studies toward the Ph.D. in fields related to their degree.
2. Graduates will be competent research assistants or associates in fields related to their degree.
3. Graduates will be prepared to teach in their field at the community college or lower division undergraduate level.
4. Graduates will have knowledge of research needs and standards in their field, such that they are qualified to be research managers.
5. Graduates will have good oral and written communication skills.

II. Assessment Criteria and Procedures

1. All students must pass a written comprehensive exam, which assess disciplinary knowledge, and the ability to apply that knowledge to interdisciplinary questions. [for all outcomes]
2. Students are required to write a thesis interpreting the results of a substantial research project. [for outcomes 1, 2, and 5]
3. Students are required to pass an oral defense of the thesis, which includes a public presentation [for outcomes 3 and 5]
4. 80% of graduates seeking employment in fields relevant to their education will succeed within one year of graduation. [for all outcomes]
5. 90% of interdisciplinary M.S. graduates seeking admission to a Ph.D. or professional program related to their field of study will be admitted.
6. 80% of graduates will be satisfied; overall, with the education they received through the Interdisciplinary program. [for all outcomes]

III. Implementation

1. Each comprehensive exam administered will be evaluated by the student's committee and a Report on Examination form submitted to the Graduate School. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee and/or Graduate Dean will review these evaluations annually.
2. The student's advisory committee will assess research competence and written communication skills by reviewing progress of study, research and the writing of the thesis annually, and an "Annual Progress Report of Advisory Committee" form will be submitted to the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School will review these annual reports.
3. The student's advisory committee will prepare a written evaluation of each student's communication skills and the disciplinary content of the oral thesis defense. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee and/or Graduate Dean will review these evaluations annually.

4. The Graduate School will compile information on graduates' first employment. Every three years, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will examine the data.
5. One and three years after graduation, the Graduate School will ask graduates to complete a questionnaire, addressing their job search, employment, and satisfaction with the education received through their interdisciplinary program. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will review completed questionnaires.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Interdisciplinary M.A.

Mission Statement: The Interdisciplinary M.A. Program is committed to providing quality graduate education through student-faculty collaboration in research or creative activity and scholarly endeavor.

Goal Statement: Graduates will have a strong fundamental understanding of their disciplines; comprehensive knowledge of the specialty; understanding of the principles that guide the design and execution of high-quality research or creative activity; and substantial experience in research or creative activity. Graduates will be able to teach and to communicate issues related to their field of study to the public.

I. Intended Outcomes/Objectives:

1. Graduates will be prepared to undertake studies toward the Ph.D. in fields related to their degree.
2. Graduates will be competent research assistants or associates in fields related to their degree.
3. Graduates will be prepared to teach in their field at the community college or lower division undergraduate level.
4. Graduates will have knowledge of research needs and standards in their field, such that they could be competent research managers.
5. Graduates will have good oral and written communication skills.

II. Assessment Criteria and Procedure:

1. All students must pass a written comprehensive exam, which assess disciplinary knowledge, and the ability to apply that knowledge to interdisciplinary questions. [for all outcomes]
2. Students are required to write a thesis or complete a project interpreting the results of a substantial research or creative project. Completed projects may include documentation of creative activity in lieu of an extensive written report. [for outcomes 1, 2, and 5]

3. Students are required to pass an oral defense of the thesis or project, which includes a public presentation [for outcomes 3 and 5]
4. 80% of graduates seeking employment in fields relevant to their education will succeed within one year of graduation. [for all outcomes]
5. 90% of interdisciplinary M.A. graduates seeking admission to a Ph.D. or professional program related to their field of study will be admitted.
6. 80% of graduates will be satisfied; overall, with the education they received through the Interdisciplinary program. [for all outcomes]

III. Implementation

1. Each comprehensive exam administered will be evaluated by the student's committee and a Report on Examination form submitted to the Graduate School. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will review these evaluations annually.
2. The student's advisory committee will assess research competence and written communication skills by reviewing progress of study, research and the writing of the thesis or completion of the project annually, and an "Annual Progress Report of Advisory Committee" form will be submitted to the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School will review these annual reports.
3. The student's advisory committee will prepare a written evaluation of each student's communication skills and the disciplinary content of the oral thesis or project defense. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee and/or Graduate Dean will review these evaluations annually.
4. The Graduate School will compile information on graduates' first employment. Every three years, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will examine the data.
5. One and three years after graduation, the Graduate School will ask graduates to complete a questionnaire, addressing their job search, employment, and satisfaction with the education received through their interdisciplinary program. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs Steering Committee will review completed questionnaires.