

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan 2012 2013

Interdisciplinary Studies
in Neurobiological
Science

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

David Smith
dwsmith@ufl.edu

IDS – Neurobiological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan

Mission Statement

The primary mission of the CLAS Interdisciplinary Studies Major in Neurobiological Sciences is to assist its majors in developing the knowledge, skills, and values that define the neural and physiological basis of behavior, and, professionally, as the foundation for a variety of post-baccalaureate career paths in any of the many sub-disciplines that constitute the broader field of behavioral neuroscience research, or professional training in the life sciences, such as, but not limited to, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary medicine.

The mission aligns with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences mission to conduct scholarly inquiry, produce creative works, and mentor students to become the next generation of intellectual and scientific pioneers; and the UF mission that states Research and scholarship are integral to the educational process and to the expansion of our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses.

The IDS major is a limited access program. A 3.0 GPA is required for application. Students must choose two faculty members from different departments who agree to serve as advisors during the program, from the planning stages to completion. At least one of these faculty members must be from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Each interdisciplinary program of study must be approved by the College Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies and include at least 20 credit hours of 3000-4000 level coursework taken in two or more departments. All other College degree requirements (e.g., foreign language, basic distribution, electives, etc.) must be met. The student must also take at least seven credit hours of IDS 4906 (Independent Research) under the direction of one or both of the supervisory faculty members and produce a senior thesis which incorporates the findings of the research project. Students should begin planning an interdisciplinary program early on in the undergraduate career. Students may start the application process for the IDS program by the end of the 4th semester, beginning of the 5th semester.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Content

1. Identify, describe, and examine neurobiological sciences.
2. Use the scientific approach to gather and verify knowledge.

Critical Thinking

3. Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information gathered via experiment and literature and apply them effectively.

Communication

4. Articulate research results clearly and effectively in speech and in writing in an accepted style of presentation.

Curriculum Map

Curriculum Map for:

Program: IDS – Neurobiological Sciences

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Key: **I**ntrouduced

Reinforced

Assessed

SLOs	Courses	IDS 4906 (will be taken two, or more times)	IDS 4906
Content Knowledge			
SLO 1		I,R	R,A Thesis
SLO 2		I,R	R,A Thesis
Critical Thinking			
SLO 3		I,R	R,A Thesis
Communication			
SLO 4		I,R	R,A Thesis

Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle Chart

Assessment Cycle for:

Program: IDS Neurobiological Sciences

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

May-June

Improvement Actions:

Completed by 15 August

Dissemination:

Completed by 15 September

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge							
#1		X	X	X	X	X	X
#2		X	X	X	X	X	X
Critical Thinking							
#3		X	X	X	X	X	X
Communication							
#4		X	X	X	X	X	X

Methods and Procedures

SLO Assessment Matrix

The SLO Assessment Matrix is new for the 2012-13 Academic Assessment Plans. We have populated the matrix to the extent possible with the information we have available. Please complete the matrix.

Assessment Method - For each SLO, please enter the assessment method you are using – exam (course, internal, or external), project, paper, presentation, performance, etc.

Measurement – list the measurement procedure you use for this outcome. It can be a faculty-developed rubric with the minimum acceptable level identified, an exam score and the minimum passing score, or other measurement. **Required for 2012-13: Include at least one example of a rubric used to assess an SLO.**

SLO Assessment Matrix for 2012-13

2012-13 Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Measurement Procedure
SLO #1	Thesis	Rubric
SLO #2	Thesis	Rubric
SLO #3	Thesis	Rubric
SLO #4	Thesis	Rubric

IDS NBS students are involved in hands-on research, bench top or clinical, throughout their IDS major. This research project is detailed in a proposal, prepared in consultation with the student's mentors, in the student's application for admission to the NBS major. Research is undertaken during 7 to 12 hours of IDS 4906, where SLOs 1-3 are met each term. Each student is also required to complete a thesis, where all SLOs (1-4) are met, prior to graduation. Each student has two faculty mentors, one from CLAS plus another faculty in a different department of CLAS or another college. Faculty sponsors create their own rubrics for assessing the thesis. In general the rubric will follow a generic assessment plan:

A	Demonstrates and communicates in writing a clear, accurate, detailed and comprehensive understanding of the relevant facts / data / theories/ terms. Clearly evaluates evidence and uses evidence appropriately. Almost entirely free of grammatical errors.
B	Demonstrates and communicates in writing adequate understanding of the relevant facts / data / theories/ terms. Uses evidence but does not clearly interpret or explain the connections between the evidence and the main idea. My have a few grammatical errors but does not affect the overall

	understanding.
C	Demonstrates and communicates an uneven understanding of the relevant facts / data / theories/ terms. Does not make a clear connection between the evidence and the idea. Contains several grammatical errors.
E	Demonstrates and communicates an inadequate understanding of the relevant facts / data / theories/ terms. Fails to make a connection between the evidence and the idea. Contains many grammatical errors.

Indirect assessment is measured by the number of applicants, number accepted, and number retained in the program.

Assessment Oversight

Assessment oversight is provided by the Director of the IDS major in Neurobiological Sciences which may rotate. The current Director is as follows:

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
David Smith	Psychology	dsmith@ufl.edu	273-2152
Margaret Fields	IDS Major	mfields@ufl.edu	392-2264