

M.S. in Animal Sciences Academic Assessment Plan 2012-2013

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
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Office of the Provost

*University of
Florida*

*Institutional
Assessment*

*Continuous Quality
Enhancement*

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2012-2013 Academic Assessment Plan for M.S. in Animal Sciences

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

A. Mission

The mission of the Animal Sciences Department is to provide our stakeholders with intellectual depth and tools required for self-sustained learning while emphasizing knowledge related to animal agriculture. We conduct research and make knowledge available through teaching and extension to assist food animal and horse enterprises to remain profitable and sustainable, and to provide consumers with economical, safe and wholesome food.

The Animal Sciences Department supports the missions of the college and university to serve the nation's and state's critical needs by contributing to a well-qualified and broadly diverse citizenry, leadership and workforce through graduate education and to expand our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses through graduate student research.

B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Plan	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	Identify, interpret, and discuss the principles of the animal sciences with a deeper mastery of a chosen specialization.	<p>1) Evaluation of the student's program of study and M.S. thesis (for M.S. Thesis option only) or assigned independent study project (for M.S. Non-Thesis option) by the supervisory committee and other faculty utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>2) Evaluation of graduating student's performance in the Professional Animal Scientist exam by the Association of Professional Animal Scientists or publication of manuscripts from the student's original research in a peer-reviewed journal (for M.S. Thesis option only) or involvement of an external examiner in the student's thesis exam (for M.S. Thesis option only) or final exam (for M.S. Non-Thesis option only) utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>3) Analysis of the student's annual evaluation by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty with particular emphasis on performance in coursework and internal and external examinations.</p>	Campus

Knowledge	Apply scientific methods to problems in the animal sciences and develop new solutions to such problems.	<p>1) Evaluation of the solutions to assigned special problems and the student's M.S. thesis (for M.S. Thesis option only) or assigned independent study project (for M.S. Non-Thesis option only) by the supervisory committee and other faculty utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>2) Analysis of the student's annual evaluation by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty with particular emphasis on progress with research and thesis writing (for MS Thesis option only).</p>	Campus
Skills	Propose and deploy scientific methods to solve problems and generate new information.	<p>1) Successful completion of the MS thesis examination (for M.S. Thesis option) or an assigned independent study project (for M.S. Non-Thesis option) as judged by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>2) Evaluation of the student's participation in a journal club or a course involving manuscript discussions by the supervisory committee and other faculty utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>3) Analysis of the student's annual evaluation by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty with particular emphasis on performance during final examinations.</p>	
Professional Behavior	Display ethical conduct and interact with others with honesty, cultural sensitivity, and respect.	<p>1) Analysis of the student's annual evaluation by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty with particular emphasis on display of professional behavior.</p> <p>2) Adherence to the UF Honor Code</p>	Campus
	Communicate effectively in professional situations.	<p>1) Evaluation of abstract(s) and at least one paper at a national/international professional scientific meeting (for M.S. Thesis option only) by the major advisor utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>2) Evaluation of a seminar presented during the</p>	Campus

		<p>Graduate Seminar course by the Graduate Seminar Coordinator, utilizing a rubric designed by faculty.</p> <p>3) Analysis of the student's annual evaluation by the supervisory committee utilizing a rubric designed by faculty with particular emphasis on presentations at scientific meetings and seminars.</p>	
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C. Research

All M.S. students are expected to choose supervisory committee members with their major adviser, develop a program of study with committee members, be conversant with the literature in their area of specialization, execute their research on schedule with integrity and diligence, statistically analyze data, interpret and synthesize findings to provide new knowledge, which should be presented at professional conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, students are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or greater and to graduate in two years at the most.

To achieve these goals, students will be expected to multi-task, display excellent interpersonal and time management skills, network with colleagues, professors and other scientists, and join appropriate professional organizations.

D. Assessment Timeline

M.S. in Animal Sciences

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Assessment SLOs	Program of Study	Thesis or Project	Exam or Manuscript	Manuscript Discussion	Annual Evaluation	Paper Presentation	Seminar
Knowledge							
#1	X	X	X				
#2		X					
Skills							
#3			X	X			
Professional Behavior							
#4					X		
#5						X	X

E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

M.S. in Animal Sciences

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

June 2012

Program Modifications:

Completed by August 15, 2012

Dissemination:

Completed by January 31, 2013

SLOs	Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge					
#1		X	X	X	X
#2		X	X	X	X
Skills					
#3		X	X	X	X
Professional Behavior					
#4		X	X	X	X
#5		X	X	X	X

F. Measurement Tools

Thesis defense

Students' success rate at passing this examination will be determined once a year by the Graduate Programs Office.

Research proposal and Program of Study

Each student's supervisory committee will assess the quality and acceptability of the student's research proposal and monitor their progress with their program of study in their annual evaluation. Unsatisfactory performance will be reported to the Graduate Program's Office, which will collate the data on student proficiency in these areas

ANS 6971 Research for Master's thesis and ANS 6933 Graduate Seminar

Students' success rate in each of these courses will be determined once a year by the Graduate Programs Office by evaluating their grades.

Annual evaluation of performance

The annual evaluation instrument uses students' progress and proficiency in research and classroom academics, literature awareness, adherence to UF rules and regulations, and compliance with established work schedules to derive an overall work performance score ranging from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest). These scores will be used to monitor student work performance by the Graduate Programs Office.

Other assessments

Students will submit information about oral and poster presentations at professional conferences, ARPAS exams passed, journal club involvement, journal articles published, and extension articles published as part of their annual evaluation. The Graduate Programs Office

will use this data to estimate the percentage achievement of the relevant learning outcome from these metrics.

The information gathered on each of the above topics will be disseminated once a year to the faculty

G. Assessment Oversight

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Gbola Adesogan, Graduate Coordinator	Animal Sciences	adesogan@ufl.edu	(352) 392-7527
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