

Assessment Report for the 2020-2021 Academic Year Natural Science Minor

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Mission Statement:

The core mission of the University of San Francisco is to educate students in the knowledge and skills required to succeed as professionals and as persons, while also teaching the sensitivity and values necessary to participate in a world shared by all people. The Department of Biology particularly emphasizes the core Jesuit value of advancing the freedom and responsibility to pursue truth and to follow evidence to its conclusion. In pursuit of these values, the faculty of the Department of Biology educates undergraduate students in current biological concepts, methodologies, and ethical practices in the laboratory and the natural environment to prepare them to succeed personally and professionally with the potential for advanced training in the sciences.

(No changes since last report)

Program Learning Outcomes:

The Natural Science Minor prepares students to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the concepts that comprise the natural sciences of biology, chemistry, and physics
2. Perform laboratory techniques used to evaluate and explore scientific problems
3. Apply the scientific process

Curriculum Map:

See attached. (No changes since last report)

Schedule for Assessment of Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):

- 2018-2019: PLO #3
- 2019-2020: PLOs #1 and #3
- 2020-2021: Reflection bases on past assessments.

We could not find assessment reports prior to 2018-2019, but believed we had assessed PLOs 1-3 in recent years when making plans for the 2020-2021 assessment.

Methods for 2020-2021 Assessment:***Reflection Based on Passed Assessments:***

Faculty members in the Biology Department met on 6 May 2021 to discuss the Natural Science Minor. Discussions focused on the curriculum for the minor and the Program Learning Outcomes for the minor.

Results and Findings of 2020-2021 Assessment:

Biology faculty members agreed that the curriculum in the Natural Science Minor provides a solid introduction to the sciences, and that the Program Learning Outcomes for the minor accurately reflect the curriculum. We discussed the Biology Minor in the same meeting that we discussed the Natural Science Minor, and in fact used the Natural Science Minor PLOs as a model for discussing revisions to the Biology Minor PLOs and aligning the Biology Minor PLOs with the curriculum for the Biology minor.

We did not realize that we did not have a recent record for assessment of PLO #2 for the Natural Science Minor. We will plan to assess PLO #2 in the 2021-2022 academic year.