

Major Field Assessment Plan
M.S. Biological Sciences

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the educational and cultural needs, primarily of southeast Louisiana, to disseminate knowledge and to facilitate life-long learning through quality instruction, research, and service in a safe, student-centered environment.

The purpose of the M.S. in Biological Sciences is to provide a broad academic program at the graduate level for students of diverse biological interests.

Goal 1

To produce well-qualified graduate students who are ready to obtain positions in government or industry or continue their education toward a PhD or professional degree.

A. Expected Outcome

All incoming graduate students will have sufficient grasp of basic concepts in biology to begin graduate work and assist in instruction.

Assessment Procedure

All students will score at least 70% on the Preliminary Written Exam, which is given to all incoming students during their first three weeks of enrollment.

B. Expected Outcome

By the end of their second semester, students pursuing a thesis degree will have achieved sufficient mastery of their area of specialty to begin independent research.

Assessment Procedure

Thesis students must pass an oral exam of basic biology and their research area during their second semester.

C. Expected Outcome

By the end of their graduate studies, thesis students demonstrate an ability to conduct publishable independent research.

Assessment Procedure

Thesis students are required to prepare and defend a thesis based on original independent research.

D. Expected Outcome

By the end of their graduate studies, non-thesis students will have a broad background in biology.

Assessment Procedure

Non-thesis students will complete 36 hours of coursework, and will pass a comprehensive written exam based on their coursework after completing 30 hours of coursework.

Expected Outcome

By the end of their graduate studies, non-thesis students will conduct independent research.

Assessment Procedure

Non-thesis students are required to take three hours of research problems and give an oral presentation of their research to the department.

Note: Students gain global perspectives through courses that emphasize biological issues that cross international boundaries. We also offer opportunities for research and study abroad.