

**MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN
B. S. HORTICULTURE**

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the education 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 B.S. in Horticulture is ...

Goal 1

Horticulture majors should have a strong knowledge of Horticulture.

A. Expected Outcome

Graduating seniors will compare favorably with similar students nationwide in their knowledge of biological principles.

Assessment

- a. All Horticulture majors, upon taking Horticulture seminar, will be given a General Horticulture Exam.
- b. On the Department Exit Survey, at least 80% of the graduating students will indicate that they received at least an adequate preparation in each area of Horticulture assessed by the questionnaire.

B. Expected Outcome

Students who wish to continue their education will be adequately prepared to pursue a graduate degree in a biological field.

Assessment

- a. At least 70% of the graduating seniors will indicate on the SLU Exit Survey that they feel adequately or well-prepared to seek further education.
- b. Students who indicate on the Undergraduate Alumni Survey that they are seeking a graduate degree in a biological science, will indicate that they are "satisfied" or "well satisfied" with their instruction in the major and when they compare themselves with alumni from other institutions, they believe their preparation at SLU was "better" or "about equal".

Goal 2

Horticulture majors will have the skills needed to conduct and present biological research safely.

A. Expected Outcome

Senior students will have good written and oral communicative skills. These include being able to conduct a literature search, read and interpret scientific literature, including charts, graphs, and tables, and write a grammatically correct, scientific report and give an oral presentation.

Assessment

- a. Senior students will present a well organized scientific seminar as part of Horticulture Seminar. The talk will be evaluated by at least two members of the Horticulture faculty.

B. Expected Outcome

Horticulture majors should know basic laboratory skills in Botany, Zoology, and horticulture including laboratory safety, performing experiments using the scientific method, using basic laboratory equipment, synthesizing, evaluating, and arranging data into meaningful tables, charts, and graphs, and effectively drawing conclusions from the results.

Assessment

On the departmental exit survey, at least 80% will indicate an "excellent" or "adequate" preparation in basic laboratory skills.

Goal 3

To foster a positive attitude towards science.

Expected Outcome

Graduating seniors will have a positive attitude towards science.

Assessment

On the Departmental Exit Survey, at least 80% of the graduating seniors will indicate that their attitude towards science in general and Horticulture in particular is positive.

Goal 4

To foster good faculty/student relationships.

Expected Outcome

Graduating seniors will feel they have a close student/faculty relationship with faculty in their major field.

Assessment

- a. On the Department Exit Survey, 90% of graduating seniors will indicate that they know two or more departmental faculty members well enough to ask them for a letter of recommendation.
- b. 90% of students will indicate on the Department Exit Survey that they feel the faculty members in the department are "helpful" or "very helpful" outside of class.