

# Annual Academic Assessment Report

## Department of Animal Science Undergraduate Program

May 10, 2024

Report annually to the Dean of the college/school the following:

- Report on General Learning Outcome # 6.1
- Results of analysis of assessment of one departmental Student Learning Outcome
- 

### General Education Learning Outcome 6.1 Report

#### *Learning Outcome 6.1*

*Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to reflect upon and explain how they use the skills and abilities embodied in Goals 1 through 5 in completing an integrative project in their major during their junior or senior year.*

***Learning Indicators for Learning Outcome 6.1:*** *To successfully achieve this outcome, students will:*

- 1. Produce a significant written paper, as defined by his or her major, or an equivalent project incorporating performance and/or multi-modal text and/or images*
- 2. Explain in an additional document of at least 1,250 words the degree to which the completed assignment involves at least three of the following sets of skills and abilities:*
  - Written, oral, and/or multimodal communication abilities*
  - Quantitative literacy*
  - Characteristics of inquiry and action in the major and in one of the Learning Outcomes under Goal 3 besides the disciplinary area of the major*
  - Diversity awareness and/or intercultural competency*
  - Critical thinking and/or ethical reasoning*

One purpose of ANSC 4993 is to provide students with an opportunity to apply and integrate knowledge from previous coursework in general education and animal science. This course is a multiple experience/ exercise capstone course and is designed for students to demonstrate mastery of a particular subject within Animal Science.

Students in ANSC 4993 spent the semester working on a scaffolded project that culminated in a written paper (minimum word count 1250), an infographic, and presentation of their infographic. Students chose a timely/ pertinent question to research based on their ANSC concentration. They provided an annotated bibliography consisting of recent, relevant journal articles and books, assimilated information obtained and produced an abstract and infographic that shared the

researched information or the justification for a practice to the community. Students presented information gleaned to the class in the form of an infographic and an oral presentation.

Steps taken in this culminating project were:

- Identified a concept/ information in ANSC that could be beneficial to producers or the general public, and present in the form of an educational, research-based infographic. Students were instructed to put learned concepts into how information could be used by producers to increase profits, or how information could be used to promote animal welfare or sustainability.
- Produced references using APA #7 format and annotated bibliographies (recent peer-reviewed journal articles, books) to ensure that their infographics were grounded in science.
- Created an outline, including graphics and pictures, that would be used in their infographic.
- Created a 150-word abstract.
- Created an infographic in CANVA that was geared toward the general population.
- Orally presented their infographic to their peers.
- Wrote a reflection paper adhering to the following instructions:

In at least 1,250 words, reflect on how this assignment involved at least three of the following skill sets and abilities:

1. How this assignment involved your written, oral, and/or multimodal communication abilities
2. How this assignment involved quantitative literacy (using math or statistical methods; emphasize the process of formulating, solving, interpreting and applying equations or statistics to solve real-world problems)
3. How this assignment was targeted toward diversity awareness and/or intercultural competency
4. How this project incorporated critical thinking and/or ethical reasoning
5. How this assignment embraced inquiry and action in ANSC **and** in one of the following:
  - Concepts from the fine arts or performing arts
  - Aesthetic, humane, and ethical sensibilities of the humanities
  - Principles of human interactions of individuals, groups, and institutions
  - Through experiment and observation, the basic principles that govern natural phenomena.

**Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 GELO 6.1 scores.**

Twenty students were enrolled in ANSC 4993 in the fall of 2023, with all completing the 1250-word paper. Twenty-one students were enrolled in ANSC 4993 during the spring of 2024 with 20 completing the 1250-word paper. Scores reported below are for all students enrolled in ANSC 4993 in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024 who completed the assigned 1250-word paper.

Course	Number of Seniors	Mean Score	% students receiving GELO 6.1 score of:				
			4	3	2	1	0
ANSC 4993(F)	20	3.40	55%	30%	15%	0%	0%
ANSC 4993(S)	20	3.45	60%	30%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	

## Results of analysis of assessment of one Departmental Student Learning Outcome

**Student Learning Outcome #4:** *Students will demonstrate basic **oral** (Outcome 4a) and **written** (Outcome 4b) communication skills and demonstrate the ability to write and present information in a professional manner.*

### Assessment of ANSC Student Learning Outcome #4a (direct assessment)

- The Oral Communication VALUE Rubric (AAC&U) was used to assess **oral communication** skills. It contains 5 performance areas (Organization, Language, delivery, supporting Material and Central Message) with a 1 to 4 scale within each of those areas.
- This rubric was used to assess undergraduates enrolled in ANSC 4993: Capstone in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024.
- All students in both classes presented an infographic they developed to their peers.

Course	Number of Seniors	Mean Score	% students receiving a score of:			
			4	3	2	1
ANSC 4993(S)	21	3.71	61.90%	21.57%	9.52%	0%
ANSC 4993(F)	20	3.05	42.86%	28.57%	19.05%	9.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>52.38%</b>	<b>25.07%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>4.76%</b>

- **In summary:**
  - The target for the Department was that 70% of graduating seniors would score an 'average' or above. In fall 2023 and spring 2024, 77.45% of the students assessed with the rubric scored either a 3 or 4 and thus met this goal.

### Assessment of ANSC Student Learning Outcome #4b (direct assessment)

- The Written Communication VALUE Rubric (AAC&U) was used to assess **written communication** skills. It contains 5 performance areas (Context of and purpose for writing, content development, genre and disciplinary conventions, sources and evidence, control of syntax and mechanics) with a 1 to 4 scale within each of those areas.
- This rubric was used to assess undergraduates enrolled in ANSC 4993: Capstone in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024.
- One student (Spring 2024) did not submit the required written assignment, so no written assignment could be assessed.

Course	Number of Seniors	Mean Score	% students receiving GELO 6.1 score of:				
			4	3	2	1	0
ANSC 4993(F)	20	3.40	55%	30%	15%	0%	0%
ANSC 4993(S)	20	3.45	60%	30%	5%	5%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	

- **In summary:**

- The target for the Department was that 70% of graduating seniors would score an ‘average’ or above. In fall 2023 and spring 2024, 87.50% of the students assessed earned either a 3 or a 4 and thus this goal was met.

Infographics produced by 2023 Fall and 2024 Spring students enrolled in ANSC 4993:

<https://padlet.com/Anscdept/2024-capstone-infographics-hxdaehgphx26di6>