

**Program Assessment Report
DBCALFS ANSC MS Program
University of Arkansas
May 2017**

1. Student Learning Outcome #1:

Graduate students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of statistics, an in-depth knowledge of their specific thesis research area and a general knowledge of other research in the Department. Areas of emphasis may include animal nutrition, genetics, physiology, muscle foods, parasitology and forages.

A. Assessment Measure 1 – Indirect

- Completion of the thesis (if required) and successful defense/exit exam for the faculty.
- Results:
 - Thus far in the 2016-2017 Academic Year (fall and spring) there have been 7 students complete the M.S. degree (6 non-thesis and 1 thesis option). There has been 1 M.S. student leave the program without completing the degree, an 87.5% success rate.
 - The target for an acceptable outcome is 100% - thus this goal was not met.

B. Assessment Measure 2 – Direct

- During the thesis defense or exit exam (for non-thesis students), students will be assessed using a rubric by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees.
- Results:
 - This rubric has not yet been developed, so it is not yet being used.
- Recommendation:
 - The faculty needs to develop a rubric and use it at the conclusion of the student's defense or exit exam

2. Student Learning Outcome #2

Graduate students will demonstrate problem solving skills.

A. Assessment Measure 3 – Direct

- During the thesis defense or exit exam (for non-thesis students), students will be assessed using a rubric by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees.
- Results:
 - This rubric has not yet been developed, so it is not yet being used.
- Recommendation:
 - The faculty needs to develop a rubric and use it at the conclusion of the student's defense or exit exam

3. Student Learning Outcome #3

Graduate students will demonstrate critical thinking skills and be able to organize, analyze, and apply scientific and technical information

A. Assessment Measure 4 – Direct

- During the thesis defense or exit exam (for non-thesis students), students will be assessed using a rubric by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees.
- Results:
 - This rubric has not yet been developed, so it is not yet being used.

- Recommendation:
 - The faculty needs to develop a rubric and use it at the conclusion of the student's defense or exit exam

4. Student Learning Outcome #4

Graduate students will be able to communicate effectively in a) oral and b) written form.

A. Assessment Measure 5 – Direct

- During the thesis defense or exit exam (for non-thesis students), students will be assessed using rubrics for a) oral and b) written communication skills by the faculty members serving on their respective graduate committees.
- Results:
 - These rubrics have not yet been developed, so they are not yet being used.
- Recommendation:
 - The faculty needs to develop a rubric and use it at the conclusion of the student's defense or exit exam

5. Overall Recommendations

During the faculty retreat in August, rubrics for assessing the Student Learning Outcomes need to be developed and then used by students' committees at the conclusion of a student's defense or exit exam.

6. Action Plan

- **The Assessment Committee will develop the needed rubrics for assessing student outcomes.**
- **The department needs to re-visit whether the goal of 100% of students completing the degree is appropriate.**