

**Program Assessment Report  
DBCAFLS ANSC PhD Program  
University of Arkansas  
May 2018**

**5. Student Learning Outcome #1:**

6. 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.

7.

A. Assessment Measure 1 – Indirect

- Completion of the dissertation and successful defense to the faculty.
- Results:
  - In December 2017 and May 2018, there have been 2 students complete dissertation defenses and graduate. There have been 2 Ph.D. students leave the program without completing the degree, a 50% success rate.
  - The target for an acceptable outcome is 100% - thus this goal was not met.

B. Assessment Measure 2 – Direct

- During the dissertation defense 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

**8. Student Learning Outcome #2**

Graduate students will demonstrate problem solving skills.

A. Assessment Measure 3 – Direct

- During the dissertation defense 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

B. Assessment Measure 4 – Direct

- During the dissertation defense 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.

B. Assessment Measure 5 – Direct

- During the dissertation defense, 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 the students' committees at the conclusion of defenses.

**6. Action Plan**

- The Assessment Committee will develop the needed rubrics for assessing student outcomes.