

**Annual Academic Assessment Report
(MS/FOOD SCIENCE)
(May 6, 2024)**

1. Results of analysis of assessment of Student Learning Outcome (SLO)

The Student Learning Outcomes provided below are those related to Communication Skills.

SLO 1: Demonstrate competency in written communication through their thesis.

1. SLO 1 was assessed in Summer 2023, Fall 2023, and Spring 2024 by each student’s graduate committee during the defense for all in FDSC MS students (n=3). Graduate committees use the student’s written dissertation to assess the student’s written communication skills. A determination by the committee is made individually based on information presented by students and through questions posed to the student.

Acceptable and Ideal Targets

- Acceptable Target: No students in the novice category for any of the rubric sub-categories (1, 2, 3 and 4), 60% of students in the Advanced or above category, and at least 20% of students in the Expert category.
- Ideal Target: 100% at or above the Advanced level for all rubric sub-categories.

2. Key Findings for SLO 1:

	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
1. Content Development	0	1	0	2
2. Conventions	0	0	2	1
3. Sources	0	0	1	2
4. Syntax and Mechanics	0	0	1	2

3. Interpretation of key findings in connection to student learning:

- The acceptable target was met as:
 - No students were in the novice category.
 - 66 - 100% of the students were at the advanced or above level for sub-categories 2 – 4.
 - At least 20% of the students were at the expert level for all four subcategories.
- The ideal target was not met with one student rated intermediate in the sub-category 1.
- There is room for improvement in the MS program in getting all students at the advanced level and above. However, this is a smaller sample size than the 2022 – 2023 assessment.

4. Description of anticipated actions for improvement of teaching and learning based on key findings:
 - There are areas to improve, but it is small sample size and MS program is shorter.
 - Because each student is evaluated by their customized graduate committee, there also exists differences across each faculty member with respect to their interpretation of each outcome and competency level. We will continue look at the data to determine if there are any faculty who consistently score higher or lower compared the rest of the committee.
 - Furthermore, we are looking to update the seminar course to help further develop some of these critical skills.

SLO 2: Demonstrate oral communication skills through the presentation of their defense.

1. SLO 2 was assessed in Summer 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023 by each student’s graduate committee during the defense for all in FDSC MS students (n=3). Student abilities will be assessed by the graduate committee during the oral presentation. A determination by the committee is made individually based on information presented by students and through questions posed to the student.

Acceptable and Ideal Targets

- Acceptable Target: No students in the novice category for the rubric sub-category 3, 50% of students in the Advanced or above category and at least 20% of students in the Expert category.
- Ideal Target: 100% at or above the advanced for the rubric sub-category.

2. Key Findings for SLO 2:

	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
1. Organization/Flow	0	0	1	2
2. Language/Delivery	0	0	1	2
3. Clarity, Legibility, and Visual Designs	0	0	1	2

3. Interpretation of key findings in connection to student learning:
 - The acceptable target and ideal target were met.
 - The results indicate that our MS program is providing a sufficient skillset in oral communication skills. Data indicate our MS students are meeting the program expectations. This shows that the MS program in FDSC provides a solid foundation for our students.
4. Description of anticipated actions for improvement of teaching and learning based on key findings:

- The ideal and acceptable target was met, but it is a limited sample size. A third of our students were not considered experts in this SLO. It is challenging to achieve expert levels within the time constraints of a MS program.

2. Any changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis

No changes to the degree program have been planned nor were made on the basis of the assessment and analysis. However, as indicated in our interpretation of each SLO, we are indeed actively working on updating graduate course offerings and seminar format for our MS students.

3. Any changes to the assessment process made or planned.

No changes to the assessment process have been made or planned.