Expected Outcomes: Subject Matter Competence

When students complete their degree they will have a thorough understanding of subject matter in their selected career option.

Assessment methods

Method: Final Exams

Survey questions are given to committee members and students after final exams are completed.

Findings:

Two students completed the PhD program in 11/12. Advisory committee members rated subject matter knowledge as excellent and reported no identifiable problem areas for one student but reported potential problems for the other. Although course requirements have been evaluated in past years there were still some complaints from the students.

How did you use findings for improvement?

From previous years finding, flexibility was included in some basic course requirements, and the graduate faculty committee is evaluating additional changes.

Additional comments:

none

Expected Outcomes: Professional Competency

When students complete their degree they will be well prepared for entrance into the work force.

Assessment methods

Method: Exit Information

Exit information will be used to help determine success of job placement.

Findings:

One student was international and returned home to a position, the other accepted a post doc at the University of Georgia.

How did you use findings for improvement?

not used

Additional comments:

none

Method: Seminar and thesis evaluations

Oral communication skills are accessed from seminars presented and written skills are accessed from dissertation.
Findings:
The advisory committee members did not identify any problems with communication skills for one student but did have concerns with one international student which is a continuing issue with some international students.

How did you use findings for improvement?
not used

Additional comments:
none

Method: Informal Interactions
Information from students and employers gained through informal interactions with faculty.

Findings:
See additional comments

How did you use findings for improvement?
See additional comments

Additional comments:
The informal interactions from the students were generally the same as with the MS students in that they were pleased with the program we offer but felt as if we have infrastructure problems with instrumentation and quality of some labs. We are aware of these issues and progress is made in obtaining funding for correcting some of the problems. New instruments (HLPC and ULPC) were purchased in 2011 which solve some instrumentation issues with the basic chemistry and microbiology programs. Faculty will continue to compete for instrumentation dollars. Quality of lab space will continue to be an issue until Funchess Hall is remodeled and CASIC building is completed. As faculty retire, lab reassignments will help with some programs and, hopefully, the completion of drying and grinding facilities in the near future will also help.