Expected Outcomes: Improve oral presentation skills

Graduate students must successfully complete an oral presentation as part of the required terminal INDD 7990 Thesis course. Improvement is sought in the student's ability to orally communicate and defend a hypothesis with supporting evidence as part of their final thesis presentation.

Assessment methods

Method: Review of required oral presentation performance

All graduate students are required to complete the INDD 7990 Thesis class. A component of successful completion is the oral defense of the thesis. Graduate committees will continue to evaluate, on a (5.0) point scale, the oral presentation of a student's thesis defense. A score of (5.0) represents the highest level of performance.

Findings:

A base level of performance has been established by the faculty of (2.8) on a (5.0) point scale for quality of oral presentation. During spring, summer, 2012 graduate committees evaluated performance in this area. Two thesis committees reported a mean performance level of (4.0) after evaluating the oral presentations of two students completing INDD 7990.

How did you use findings for improvement?

While the evaluations indicate an improvement over performance in 2011, two issues must continue to be taken into account in interpreting the indication of progress. 1) the sample was small with only having the report of two committees on two students, 2) the sample was biased by the quality of students reviewed who represent the upper level of performance in their graduating class.

Additional comments:

All graduate committees and chairs must continue to be encouraged to submit assessment evaluation of oral presentation skills to the GPO.