Expected Outcomes: Advanced Study

Students will be prepared for advanced study in exercise science.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
7. Written Communication
8. Oral Communication
9. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
10. Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Survey

Upon qualification for graduation, a survey is administered.

Findings:

Target goal: On a questionnaire, 75% of seniors will indicate the belief that they are prepared to enter graduate school or professional programs. Of that group, 80% will indicate that they are “very confident” in their preparation for additional schooling. They indicated that they are undecided about the quality of their preparation.

Data were collected in our “Undergraduate Assessment Survey” in the KINE 4780 Senior Paper class during Fall 2011 semester and the Spring and Summer 2012 semesters. One hundred and seven students completed the survey and 100% indicated that they are prepared to enter graduate school or professional programs. Of this group, 72% have indicated that they are “very confident” in their preparation for graduate school or a professional program. Twenty-eight percent indicated that they were “somewhat confident”. When asked why they did not feel very confident most students replied fear of the unknown and of “beginning the next chapter”.

How did you use findings for improvement?

In this assessment period the number of students who feel prepared to pursue further education was 100%. While we are satisfied with this result, we must work harder to move more of the “somewhat” group to the “very” group. It is interesting to note that in the free comment section of this survey students remark positively about their preparation and the quality of the program. We will continue to monitor this area and identify methods of introducing the students to expectations of the post-baccalaureate education. The PT/OT Club addresses many of the aspects of moving into graduate studies. We will continue to emphasize these activities
and club participation in the future.

Additional comments:

Target goal: 80% of those graduates applying to Auburn will present acceptable scores. 7 graduates of the exercise science program applied to Auburn for graduate school and 5 students did present acceptable scores. So, 71.4% of our graduates who applied presented acceptable admission applications. This is a decrease for the second straight year, but the first time we have dropped below our goal of 80%. The Department has seen an increase in quality graduate applications. This could be one of the reasons for this decrease. At this time, no changes are recommended, but the faculty will continue to monitor this metric and encourage the undergraduate students interested in the program to prepare for the GRE.

Expected Outcomes: Employment

Students will be prepared for exercise science-based health and fitness-related employment in the public and private sector (e.g., corporate fitness, hospital-based programs, YMCAs, health spas.

Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
8. Oral Communication
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Survey

Upon qualification for graduation, a survey is administered.

Findings:

Target goal: Of the students who do not intend to attend graduate or professional schools, 90% will indicate the belief that they are prepared to accept exercise-science-related employment upon graduation. Fourteen students indicated that they would not be attending a graduate or professional program. 92.9% (13/14) of this group stated that they felt confident in their ability to begin an exercise-science related position.

How did you use findings for improvement?

We are happy to see that our students feel prepared to enter into the workforce. However, we had hoped that with capping this program and with the addition of our new degree program that is more applied in nature, less students would report pursuing exercise science employment. This metric will be watched to see how the new program area changes this measure.
Additional comments:

None.

**Expected Outcomes: Research**

Students will understand the research process within the sub-disciplines of exercise science.

**Related typical general education outcomes:**

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
7. Written Communication
8. Oral Communication
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy
12. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

**Assessment methods**

**Method: Professor Feedback**

As part of the capstone experience the professor of the class determines the quality of the student’s contribution to the senior paper and senior paper presentation.

**Findings:**

Target goal: 90% of exercise science students will successfully complete the capstone experience, the Exercise Science Senior Research Paper. 25% of the papers submitted will be judged outstanding. 97% of students reported successfully completing the capstone experience. Of the papers submitted 50% were deemed to be outstanding. The professors of this experience have reported that the students are improving in the very difficult to measure components of thought and quality of writing.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

The faculty will continue the initiative to stress writing in the supporting classes.

**Additional comments:**

None.

**Expected Outcomes: Research Presentation**

Students will demonstrate verbal communication skills within the sub-disciplines of exercise science.
Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
7. Written Communication
8. Oral Communication
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy
12. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

Assessment methods

Method: Professor Feedback

As part of the capstone experience the professor of the class determines the quality of the student’s contribution to the senior paper and senior paper presentation.

Findings:

- Target goal: 100% of graduating exercise science students will demonstrate an acceptable level verbal communication, including presentation skills and exercise science related conversation. Furthermore, 75% of these students will demonstrate outstanding verbal presentation and exercise related conversational skills. 100% of the students performed acceptably at the presentation phase of the capstone experience and 25% achieved a level of outstanding in their performance.

How did you use findings for improvement?

This is a new metric and more data is needed before changes can be recommended.

Additional comments:

None.