Expected Outcomes: Comprehensive Exams

Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge in each of the exercise science sub-disciplines (biomechanics, exercise physiology, and motor behavior/sport and exercise psychology).

Assessment methods

Method: Comprehensive Exams
Each program area conducts its own comprehensive exam. The scores are then reported to the SACs coordinator.

Findings:
Target goal: 90% of students will pass (a 75% score) both the research and subject matter content portions of the departmental comprehensive examination on the first attempt. 60% will score 85% or greater on the exam.

How did you use findings for improvement?
78% (7/9) passed the comprehensive examination on the first attempt. 6/9 (66.7%) scored 85% or greater on the exam. While the percentage of students who passed the exam on the first attempt decreased, the percentage of students who scored above 85% increased over the result from last year. The faculty from the respective programs, continue to meet and review exams and questions every year to make sure that they reflect the current best practices and information in each field. Based on these and the outcomes from the previous years, no changes are indicated at this time.

Additional comments:
None

Expected Outcomes: Thesis

Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic research methods and statistical techniques.

Assessment methods

Method: Faculty input
The faculty mentor of the student who has completed the thesis submits the responses to a survey.

Findings:
Target goal: 20% of students completing a Master’s thesis will present their thesis research at a professional meeting within 3 years of graduation. 10% will publish their thesis research in appropriate refereed journals. There were no students who chose to pursue the thesis option of the masters degree program.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Inadequate data to revise program. However, the faculty continues to debate the inclusion of this metric.
**Expected Outcomes: Professional Development**

On completion of the master's program, students will have engaged in professional development.

**Assessment methods**

**Method**: Survey

Upon qualifying for graduation the students will be asked to complete an exit survey.

**Findings**:

Target goal: 100% of students will attend at least one professional development opportunity program related to job opportunities. 30% will attend a national or regional professional meeting.

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

67% (6/9) attended at least one professional development opportunity program related to job opportunities. 33.3% (3/9) attended a national or regional professional meeting. While we fell short of our 100% goal, we are encouraged by the increased number of participants in professional development opportunities. The faculty have continued to provide professional development opportunities and have encouraged the masters students to attend. We are very gratified by the number of masters’ student who attended a regional/national conference, particularly in light of reducing funding for student travel. It should be noted that travel funds for master’s level students were decrease this past year and may have had some influence on their travel.

**Additional comments**:

None.

**Expected Outcomes: Preparation**

Students will indicate that they feel qualified/prepared to continue graduate study or secure an exercise science related position.

**Assessment methods**

**Method**: Survey

Upon qualifying for graduation the students will be asked to complete an exit survey.

**Findings**:

Target goal: 90% of students will indicate that they believe they are prepared for further graduate study.

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

100% (10/10) indicated that they feel qualified/prepared to continue in a graduate or professional program. This is the second year of this metric. Both years returned 100%, no changes are recommended at this time.

**Additional comments**:

None.
None.

Expected Outcomes: Employment

Students will indicate that they believe they are prepared to begin employment in an exercise related position.

Assessment methods

Method: Survey

Upon qualifying for graduation the students will be asked to complete an exit survey.

Findings:

Target goal: 90% of students will indicate that they believe they are prepared to begin employment in an exercise related position.

How did you use findings for improvement?

100% (10/10) indicated that they feel qualified/prepared to work in the exercise science related position. This is the second year of this metric. Both years returned 100%, no changes are recommended at this time.

Additional comments:

None.

Expected Outcomes: Athletic Training

Assessment methods

Method: Faculty analysis

The Athletic Training coordinator will provide a score for the written and the verbal portion of the research project. As these projects are completed in small groups, the coordinator will assign scores based on the group performance on the written portion, but each student will receive an individual verbal communication score.

Findings:

Target goal: 90% of students will pass (a 80% score) both the written and verbal portions of this experience. Seventy five percent will score 85% or greater on both portions. 75% (6/8) of the students that completed the research project scored an 80 or above on the written/verbal portion of the project. 62.5% (5/8) scored 85 or above.

How did you use findings for improvement?

This is the first year that this metric has been collected and as such no conclusions can be made at this time.

Additional comments:

It should be noted that 3 students did not meet the research schedule and as such had to take comprehensive exams. All 3 failed on their first attempt and provided an average score of 77.7% on their second attempt. The comprehensive exam is the absolute last resort for this cohort and as such we do not anticipate maintaining this metric. However, if it becomes necessary specific goals for comprehensive exams will be developed.