Expected Outcomes: 1. Mastery of Laws

Standardized tests for each area of chemistry (provided by the American Chemical Society) will be given to students at the beginning of the PHD program and after all cumulative exams have been taken (near graduation).

Assessment methods

Method: 1a. Standardized Tests

Standardized tests for each area of chemistry (provided by the American Chemical Society) will be given to students at the beginning of the PHD program and again after all cumulative exams have been taken (near graduation).

Findings:

Each graduate student's average score increased from the value obtained from the exam at the beginning of the PHD program.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The questions most frequently answered incorrectly were noted. Instructors were recommended to emphasize those general areas of chemistry most frequently answered incorrectly.

Additional comments:

None

Method: 1b. Feedback Interview

Chemistry graduate students with a PHD Degree will be interviewed by a faculty member to determine their overall satisfaction with the instructional graduate program in chemistry.

Findings:

Most students were satisfied with the instructional program.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Evaluate students' comments and any suggestions of merit are recorded by the assessment committee.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: 2. Practical Theory

Students will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge to basic and practical theory at the forefront of each of these areas of the chemical sciences.

Assessment methods
Method: 2a. Departmental Exam

An exit exam (a standardized American Chemical Society exam) covering general chemistry will be given to upper level chemistry graduate students. The results will provide a baseline to evaluate future results obtained from the exam.

Findings:

- The scores obtained for the past several years will be used to determine a base line value to compare future results obtained from the exam.

How did you use findings for improvement?

- Student performance that would be 10% less than the mean would be examined to see which questions were answered incorrectly and the instructors of these classes would be notified of an existing deficiency of instruction in those areas.

Additional comments:

None

Method: 2b. Exit Questionnaire

A questionnaire is given to graduating PHD chemistry majors concerning the curriculum.

Findings:

- Most students were satisfied with the curriculum, quality of the instruction, and the effectiveness of the research program.

How did you use findings for improvement?

- Evaluate student satisfaction and suggested improvements of merit are recorded by the assessment committee for faculty action.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: 3. Oral Communication

Graduate students will be evaluated during their seminar presentations in the Department.

Assessment methods

Method: 3a. Evaluation of graduate students

Graduate students will be evaluated during their seminar presentations in the Department. Graduate students are required to give seminars (research/or literature reviews) in their area during a calendar year. These are evaluated by faculty and assigned a score. The comments and score resulting are given to each student for improvement.

Findings:

- The graduate students average score increased from the value obtained from seminar evaluations over a four year year period.

How did you use findings for improvement?

- Study student performance. Departmental seminar programs are encouraged to create and give each student an instruction sheet with information on student seminar improvement.
Method: 3b. Research Seminar

Graduate students are required to give a final seminar on their research before graduation. These seminars will be evaluated for research quality and presentation of the results.

Findings:

Graduate students average scores are higher than the average score five years ago.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Each major professor is requested to use the score and comments obtained from the evaluations to improve the performance of graduate students under his or her supervision.

Additional comments:

None.