



Texas Southern University
Assessment Plan 2010-2013

Unit Assessment Plan

College of Science and Technology

Doctorate in Environmental Toxicology

Introduction

Texas Southern University's Mission

Texas Southern University is a comprehensive metropolitan university. Building on its legacy as a historically black institution, the university provides academic and research programs that address critical urban issues and prepare an ethnically diverse student population to become a force for positive change in a global society.

In order to achieve this mission, Texas Southern University provides:

- quality instruction in a culture of innovative teaching and learning
- basic and applied research and scholarship that is responsive to community issues
- opportunities for public service that benefit the community and the world.

Texas Southern University's Vision

Texas Southern University will become one of the nation's pre-eminent comprehensive metropolitan universities. We will be recognized by the excellence of our programs, the quality of our instruction, our innovative research, and our desire to be a contributing partner to our community, state, nation, and world.

Accreditation Standards

Accreditation by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) Commission on Colleges signifies that the institution: (1) has a mission appropriate to higher education, (2) has resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that mission, and (3) maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that indicate whether it is successful in achieving its stated objectives.

Source: The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, 5th edition

Goal 1 Assessment Plan 2010-11 to 2012-13

1 Goal Description

Goal 1

Provide students with a solid background in Environmental Toxicology that will allow them to pursue successful careers with Academia, Industry, or governmental agencies.

2 SLO Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Slo 1.1

Students shall be able to conduct a research project under supervision of major research advisor as demonstrated by their dissertation.

Slo 1.2

Students shall be able to prove their knowledge of various aspects of Environmental Toxicology by accurately answering specific questions on the Environmental Toxicology qualifying examination.

3 Metric

Metric 1.1

Dissertation defense results.

Metric 1.2

Environmental Toxicology qualifying examination scores.

4 Target 2010-11

Target 1.1

80% of the students will successfully defend their dissertation

Target 1.2

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate on the qualifying examination.

5 Findings 2010-11

Findings 1.1

In the 2010-2011 academic year the rate of success in defending their dissertation was 100%

Findings 1.2

In the 2010-2011, the qualifying examination was converted to a single combined examination and an analysis indicated that the students had an average test score of 53%.

N= 2

6 Action Plan 2010-11

Develop a defense survey to determine faculty opinion of student competences dissertation defense preparation.

Perform item analyses to determine any weaknesses within the various topics of Environmental Toxicology program course offerings.

Increase the assessment to include the studentsâ ability to read, comprehend and disseminate bodies of research in Etox and combine all three subsections into on examination.

2009-2010, we developed a more detail analysis of the qualifying exam, to including course mapping.

2010-11, the result of the assessment was well below the target; however the low N for this year may be attributed to the factor that one out of two students performed extremely poorly while the other scored 80%. Thus, we believe this is an anomaly and will not take action this year.

7 Target 2011-12

Target 1.1

85% of the students will successfully defend their dissertation

Target 1.2

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate on the qualifying examination.

8 Findings 2011-12

Findings 1.1

In the 2011-2012 academic year, the rate of success in defending their dissertation was 100%

Findings 1.2

In the 2011-2012, the qualifying examination was converted to a single combined examination and analysis indicated that the students had passage rates of 100%.

N= 5

9 Action Plan 2011-12

Increase the use and review of research articles and current events in all applicable courses

10 Target 2012-13

Target 1.1

85% of the students will successfully defend their dissertation

Target 1.2

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate on the qualifying examination.

11 Findings 2012-13

Findings 1.1

In the 2012-2013 academic year, the rate of success in defending their dissertation was 100%

Findings 1.2

In the 2012-2013, the qualifying examination was converted to a single combined examination and analysis indicated that the students had passage rates of 100%.

N= 8

12 Action Plan 2012-13

Develop a defense survey to determine faculty opinion of student competences dissertation defense preparation.

Perform item analyses to determine any weaknesses within the various topics of Environmental Toxicology program course offerings.

revising student learning objectives/outcomes and curriculum maps to include the studentsâ ability to read, comprehend, and disseminate/communicate bodies of research/data in Etox and combine all three subsections into one examination.

13 Additional Reference Documents

Roster of student dissertation and results, examples of dissertations.

Completed surveys from faculty.
Roster of qualifying examination scores.

[Copy of EST 2011-2012 Assessment Information](#) [XLSX 11 KB 10/2/15]

Goal 2 Assessment Plan 2010-11 to 2012-13

1 Goal Description

Goal 2

Provide students with the ability to review, analyze, and disseminate scientific literature in Environmental Toxicology.

2 SLO Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Slo 2.1

Students shall be able to critically review a research article in the field of Environmental Toxicology (added in 2009-2010) on this section of the qualifying examination.

Slo 2.2

Students shall be able to orally present and defend a research article in the field of Environmental Toxicology (added in 2010-2011)

3 Metric

Metric 2.1

Qualifying examination scores.

Metric 2.2

Results of oral presentations.

4 Target 2010-11

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate.

5 Findings 2010-11

In the 2010-2011 academic year, the item analysis indicated students had 49% on this section of the qualifying examination.

N = 2

6 Action Plan 2010-11

Increase the use and review of research articles and current events in all applicable courses

2010-11, the result of the assessment was well below the target; however the low N for this year may be attributed to the factor that one out of two students performed extremely poorly while the other scored about 80%. Thus, we believe this is an anomaly and will not take action this year.

Due to changes in the program administration, this process was delayed. However, the process will be implemented in next cycle.

7 Target 2011-12

Target 2.1

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate.

Target 2.2

Senior level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate.

8 Findings 2011-12

Findings 2.1

In the 2011-2012 academic year, the item analysis indicated students had 100% on this section of the qualifying examination.

N = 5

Findings 2.2

In the 2011-2012 academic year, the rate of success in defending their oral presentation was 100%

9 Action Plan 2011-12

Increase the use and review of research articles and current events in all applicable courses

10 Target 2012-13

Target 2.1

Mid level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate.

Target 2.2

Senior level graduate students will have an 80% passage rate.

11 Findings 2012-13

Findings 2.1

In the 2012-2013 academic year, the item analysis indicated students had _100% on this section of the qualifying examination.

N = 8

Findings 2.2

In the 2012-2013 academic year, the rate of success in defending their oral presentation was 100%

12 Action Plan 2012-13

Increase the use and review of research articles and current events in all applicable courses.

Develop a mandatory journal club/seminar series for PhD students (especially those supported with fellowships)Due to changes in the program administration, this process was delayed. However, the process will be implemented in next cycle.

13 Additional Reference Documents

Roster of qualifying examination.

Roster of students PowerPoint Presentations.