Program: Chemistry minor

Department: Chemistry

Number of students enrolled in the program in Fall, 2011: 91

Faculty member completing template: Linda Roberts       Date: 1/20/2011

Period of reference in the template: 2006-07 to present

1. Please describe your program’s learning-outcomes trajectory since 2006-07: Has there been a transformation of organizational culture regarding the establishment of learning outcomes and the capacity to assess progress toward their achievement? If so, during which academic year would you say the transformation became noticeable? What lies ahead; what is the next likely step in developing a learning-outcomes organizational culture within the program?

Chemistry currently does not assess its minor, which serves almost exclusively Biological Sciences majors (98% of students completing the Chemistry minor are Biological Sciences majors). There has been little discussion of this within the Department because we have been intensively engaged in developing and implementing the assessment of our five bachelor's degrees. The department's assessment priorities following this are: 1. to expand the depth of assessment in our bachelor's degrees, 2. create an assessment plan for our graduate program, 3. create an assessment plan for the minor. One of the courses we currently use for assessment, CHEM 124, is taken by many Biological Sciences majors, including the majority of the BS Concentrations. We could use the scores in this course to evaluate performance according to major and concentration within the major. However, it would be much more meaningful to discuss with Biological Sciences the learning outcomes within the minor that are desirable for their majors. Our program learning outcomes differ from those in Biological Sciences, although there are some similarities. Most of the courses used by Biological Sciences majors for the minor (which can vary among students, depending on the student's Biological Sciences degree track and transfer courses, among other things) overlap with those required for undergraduate degrees in Chemistry. Therefore, the assessment process for the minor must align with the goals of these courses for Chemistry majors as well as the other majors they serve, which requires discussion with the respective departments, mainly Biological Sciences. At this stage, no such discussions have taken place but are planned according to the assessment priorities listed above.

Since we are not doing assessment of our minor yet, the remaining questions are N/A.