Expected Outcome 1: Subject Matter Competence

When students complete their degree they will have a thorough understanding of subject matter in their selected career option.

Assessment methods

Method: Final Exams

Survey questions are given to committee members and students after final exams are completed.

Findings:

Three students completed the PhD program in FY 12/13. As in previous years, advisory committee members rated subject matter knowledge as excellent and reported no identifiable problem areas. Although course requirements have been evaluated in past years there were still some complaints from the students.

How did you use findings for improvement?

From previous years finding, flexibility was included in some basic course requirements. The graduate faculty committee evaluated additional changes and proposed to the faculty that all course requirements would be determined by the dissertation committee for each student. The faculty agreed.

Additional comments: None
Expected Outcome 2: Professional Competency

When students complete their degree they will be well prepared for entrance into the work force

Assessment methods

Method: Exit Information

Exit information will be used to help determine success of job placement

Findings:

One international student returned home to a position, one accepted a post doc at the University of Georgia, and the third accepted a position in industry.

How did you use findings for improvement?

not used

Additional comments:

Student from last year who took a post doc at Georgia has accepted a tenure track position at Colorado State University.

Method: Seminar and thesis evaluations

Oral communication skills are accessed from seminars presented and written skills are accessed from dissertation.

Findings:

The advisory committee members did not identify any problems with communication skills.

How did you use findings for improvement?

not used

Additional comments:

none
Method: Informal Interactions

Information from students and employers gained through informal interactions with faculty

Findings:

See additional comments

How did you use findings for improvement?

See additional comments

Findings:

See additional comments

Additional Comments:

The informal interactions from the students were generally the same as with the MS students and basically the same as in previous years in that they were pleased with the program we offer but felt as if we have infrastructure problems with instrumentation and quality of some labs. We are aware of these issues and progress is being made in obtaining funding for correcting some of the problems. New instruments are purchased each year with grant monies obtained by faculty. Faculty will continue to compete for instrumentation dollars. Quality of lab space will continue to be an issue until Funchess Hall is remodeled. CASIS building is complete and will provide better lab facilities for the basic plant science programs. We are currently working on lab reassignments in Funchess which will help some programs.