

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Department of Microbiology
Weber State University
Self-Study Document, Fall 2018

Contact:

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The following is a summary of the self-study document, highlighting important points. For complete information, please refer to the full self-

interdisciplinary WSU courses Our general education courses serve as support courses for several other Departments, especially within the College of Science and Dumke College of Health Professions.

We are currently in the process of updating our major emphases to meet student demand and interest. These will include emphases in Public and Environmental Health, Medical Microbiology, and Applied and Industrial Microbiology. A new Biology Associates degree was also recently proposed to the Curriculum committee. This degree will help new students find a more efficient path to a major within the College of Science.

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sought out professional development opportunities for learning new methods and gaining new teaching skills. Some of these include group projects, classroom response technology, research-based labs, and presentations.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

were in upper division courses. Enrollments overall have dropped somewhat in the last few years, primarily in our general education courses. This may be because other departments have stopped requiring our lower division courses, and may also be related to general enrollment trends that have been seen across the University campus. Regardless, enrollment in our upper division courses and our number of majors has remained fairly consistent.

Results from Previous Program Reviews

Our last program review was completed in 2013. The results of that review identified several issues for the Department to address. These are summarized in Standard H of the self-study. In response to the items identified in that program review, the Department took several lines of action, some of which included:

- < Development of the first strategic plan in the College of Science
- < Assembly of a Departmental Advisory Board
- < Increased collaborations with other departments (e.g. Physics, Geosciences)
- < Planning of new teaching and research spaces and equipment in the Tracy Hall Science Center
- < Two new hires, including one added faculty line
- < Revised and improved advising strategies
- < Scheduling adjustments to increase lab capacity safely and to offer students more scheduling flexibility.
- < Hiring a new laboratory manager and a new administrative assistant
- < Increased attention general education courses and offerings; including the addition of

We look forward to meeting with the review team and to hearing their recommendations. Of particular interest to the Department are issues related to resources, curriculum, assessment, and student recruitment, and we appreciate any feedback or advice. In addition, we hope to gather the opinions from the review team about the value of an undergraduate degree in microbiology, and how we can have a bigger impact as a resource for the University and the community.

Program Review Team:

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