Sample Process of Assessment Section

The Biology Ph.D. program requires a student to complete a written qualifying exam, written and oral comprehensive exams based upon coursework and the student’s proposal for research, and a defense of the doctoral dissertation. These already-existing assessment activities are also used to gather program-level assessment data.

Rubrics to evaluate students' work at these program checkpoints were developed by the faculty. Each faculty committee member completes the appropriate rubric after these checkpoints. The department's graduate program coordinator sends the appropriate URL for the online rubric to committee members and aggregates the results. The coordinator requests that students complete the online exit survey as part of their RSVP for commencement in the spring. The findings from direct and indirect measures are reviewed by the Assessment Committee, who makes recommendations for changes in response to the findings. Once each year, at a late spring or early summer faculty meeting, the summarized data and proposed changes, if any, are reviewed and discussed by the faculty.