

# Biomedical Sciences PhD

## *Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose*

### **Institutional Mission Reference**

The Biomedical Sciences program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in biomedicine that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Biomedical Sciences PhD program supports the University's mission of providing advanced professional education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth.

### **Institutional Goal(s) Supported**

The Biomedical Sciences PhD program supports the University goals of quality graduate academic programs, quality teaching, discovery of new knowledge, and community service. (See pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan) The Ecological Sciences PhD program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (excellent graduate programs). (See the Old Dominion University Strategic Plan)

## *Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results*

### **Intended Outcome 1**

Students will experience a highly satisfactory and stimulating graduate education, one that furthers attainment of their post-graduate goals.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will complete an exit survey form to assess their satisfaction with their graduate education in such areas as faculty, facilities and university support. That survey will also query their post-graduate employment plans and will assess the degree to which the Biomedical Sciences PhD program did, or did not, facilitate the attainment of those goals.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1:** We decided to survey not only graduating PhD's, but also students who were still in the program, in order to assess their level of satisfaction while there is still time to address important issues. Six graduate students responded to the survey: one rated the program as satisfactory, overall, while the other 5 rated it very satisfactory. Of the 6 respondents, one had recently completed the degree and was among those rating the program as very satisfactory. Among complaints were poor stipends and lack of the best, up-to-date equipment. That graduating student has taken a post-doctoral position at EVMS.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success:** In analysis of the exit survey, a minimum of 75% of students will rate quality of instruction and faculty as satisfactory, or very satisfactory.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1:** NA

**Intended Outcome 2**

Students will write effectively.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will achieve scores of "Acceptable" or higher in the "Quality of Writing" sub-scores on the "Dissertation Assessment Form", as determined by three or more faculty members on that student's Dissertation Committee; 75% of students will receive scores of "Good" or "Excellent".

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2:** We had only one student who completed graduate work during the past year and who was assessed as very satisfactory in this category.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success:** 50% of students will have a least one peer-reviewed manuscript published, in press or under review, prior to graduation. Such data will be ascertained from exit survey data and databases maintained by track coordinators.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2:** NA. We are beginning to collect information, even if the alternate method listed here is not required, per se.

**Intended Outcome 3**

Students will effectively synthesize and orally communicate scientific information.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will achieve scores of "Acceptable" or higher in the "Ability to Synthesize", "Composure" sub-scores on the "Oral Candidacy Exam Assessment Form", as determined by four or more graduate faculty members of the student's guidance committee; 75% will earn scores of "Good" or "Excellent".

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3:** One student assessment was done this year, and that student was rated as very satisfactory by two instructors.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success:** 50% of students will present their results at regional, national or international scientific meetings, on at least one occasion prior to their graduation.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3:** NA. We are keeping records on such achievements, even though the alternative measure may not be required.

**Intended Outcome 4**

Students will develop proficiency in the conduct of scientific research by effectively using research methods and designs to critically test hypotheses and draw conclusions.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 4 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will achieve scores of "Acceptable" and higher in the "research design" and "hypotheses and interpretation" sub-scores on the "Dissertation Assessment Form", as determined by three or more graduate faculty reviewers on the student's dissertation committee; 75% will earn scores of "Good" or "Excellent".

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 4:** One student was evaluated and rated as very satisfactory in this category.

**Intended Outcome 5**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theories and empirical findings relevant to modern-day biomedical sciences.

**Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will achieve scores of "Acceptable" or higher on the sub-scores for the areas "Knowledge of Literature" and "Factual Knowledge" on the "Dissertation Assessment Form", as determined by three or more members of the student's dissertation committee; 75% of students will receive scores of "Good" or "Excellent".

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 5:** One student was evaluated as was rated as very satisfactory in this category.

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** 100% of students will achieve scores of "Acceptable" or higher in the "Literature review/documentation" sub-scores on the "Dissertation Assessment Form", as determined by three or more committee members on that student's dissertation committee; 75% of students will receive scores of "Good" or "Excellent".

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 5:** NA

**Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 5 and Criterion for Success:** 75% of alumni (as determined by alumni survey forms) will be placed in positions highly related to their field of graduate training.

**Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 5:** NA. We are keeping records on student placements following graduation.