

# Assessment Report for Biology and Health Sciences

## Department (HESC MAJOR)

### 2022-2023 Academic Year

The Biology and Health Sciences faculty held an Assessment Meeting May 9, 2023:

- Department faculty who attended the meeting:
  - Andrea Duina
  - Andrew Schurko
  - J.D. Gantz
  - Jenn Dearolf
  - Maureen McClung
  - Rick Murray
  - Shamindri Tennakoon
- Department faculty who did not attend the meeting:
  - Laura McDonald (on sabbatical)

The goal of the meeting was to assess the success of the program in meeting the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) 1 from our Assessment Plan:

- SLO1: *Describe, interpret, and integrate fundamental principles that underly the health sciences including human anatomy and physiology, human behavior and development, common diseases and disorders, and statistics.*

To help us assess **SLO1**, we used the following assessment tools:

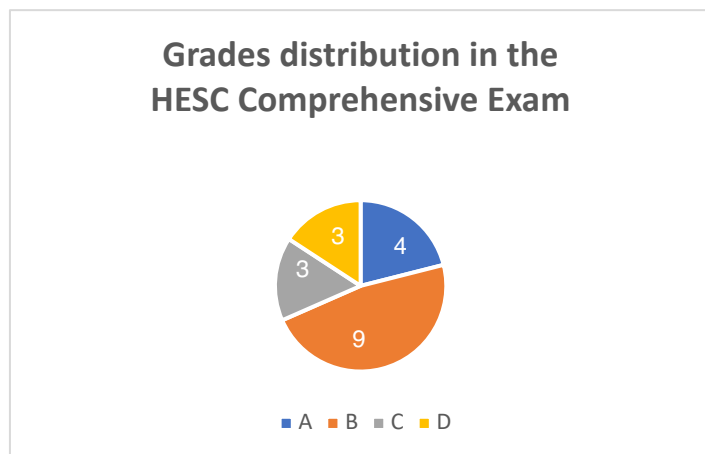
- Direct Assessment Tools:
  - ***Grades on Senior Comprehensive Exam***
- Indirect Assessment Tool:
  - ***Biology Senior Survey (this is provided to you as a separate attached document, Doc5)***

### ***SLO1 Direct Assessment:***

#### ***Grades on Senior Comprehensive Exam***

During the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, the BIOL/HESC faculty generated a Senior Comprehensive Exam to be used for assessment purposes that covers material from HESC core

courses. This exam was then given to HESC seniors during the Spring semester. Raw grades ranged from 27%-73% - these grades were curved such that lowest grade was assigned a 60% and the highest a 100% - the grade distribution after curving is shown below:



## ***SLO1 Indirect Assessment:***

### **HESC Senior Survey**

Indirect assessment of SLO1 was carried out through a Senior Survey. This survey has been provided to you along with this report (Doc5). The outcomes from it are briefly summarized below:

- When presented with this statement *“My experience in the HESC major contributed to the development of the following learning goals: Describe, interpret, and integrate fundamental principles that underly the health sciences including human anatomy and physiology, human behavior and development, common diseases and disorders, and statistics”*:
  - 6/9 students Strongly Agreed with it
  - 3/9 students Agreed with it
  - 1/12 students were Neither Agreed nor Disagreed
- Students were also asked to elaborate on SLO1 in an open-response format. As can be seen in the survey, student responses were overall positive.

## **Reflection of faculty members on SLO1 outcomes**

The BIOL/HESC department faculty found the outcomes from this assessment (both direct and indirect) as overall very positive and as evidence that we are meeting the SLO1 goals quite well.

The raw grades on the Comprehensive Exams were quite low --- part of this is due to the fact that we as a department have not been very consistent with the messaging we have been giving our students on how to approach the exam: we have been telling our students that since the exam is meant to evaluate the knowledge students have gained throughout their four years at Hendrix, there is no need to invest a lot of time studying for it... but at the same time we told them that the exam would also factored into their capstone grade (although we did not end up doing so this year). This likely caused some confusion for the students and may result in some students preparing more than others for the exam. This issue will be addressed by the newly formed HESC Interdisciplinary Program.

The Senior Survey revealed that students felt that the availability of courses offered by the department could be improved. Here are some student comments in this regard:

- I understand that we do not have many professors but it would be nice for more courses to be presented that highlight a biology perspective of the HESC.
- The HESC program needs many more electives like Medical terminology, first aid/cpr, and just more variety than only athletic injuries or nutrition.

The BIOL/HESC department and the PSYCH department have recently hired two tenure track professors that will participate in the newly formed HESC Interdisciplinary Program, which will alleviate these problems to some degree. The issue of course availability will be one of the topics that will be tackled by the newly formed HESC Interdisciplinary Program.