

Biology Departmental Assessment Meeting: Report Health Sciences Major (HSEC)

Summary of past decisions

Please summarize up to three departmental changes made since the last HLC visit (08-09) the impetus for those changes and any changes to information gathering about student development.

The HESC major is more directly career-focused than most Hendrix majors. We provide students with the preparatory curriculum to pursue post-baccalaureate careers in health profession fields such as Physical Therapy, Physicians Assistant, Occupational Therapy, Chiropractic and Nursing. We have also had a few students prepare for medical school with this major.

This is the first year that the HESC Major has been part of the Biology Department, having moved from the Kinesiology Department, and consequently it is still undergoing transitions. The old major utilized a series of tracks for each of the career choices that a student might follow. These tracks included a Public Health track that has now been dropped. Due to the breadth of these tracks it was not possible to have a large number of core, required courses for all students, so the major lacked biological rigor and consistency across the tracks. By removing public health, we were able to drop the various tracks and replace them with an expanded number of biology courses in the core. We feel that this has made the major significantly more rigorous and consistent. Students can still prepare for a wide array of career choices because we offer a large suite of elective courses that facilitate preparation for the various career options.

Looking forward

Such a large revision requires us to do a comparable revision of the learning goals and assessment plan over the upcoming year. In addition, we are in the process of refining the senior capstone experience to assess each student's preparedness for their chosen field by incorporating presentations and student papers involving case studies.

Achieving departmental goals for students

Please explain how your departmental curriculum achieves your student learning goals, being sure to include the Capstone. Feel free to attach a curricular map or other supporting documents. Summarize the ways your department provides guidance in the effective use of research and information resources.

As described above, we need to revisit and revise the major's learning goals due to the move to the Biology Department and the many revisions to the major that were put in place. We look forward to working on this during the coming academic year.