

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2005 (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

DEPARTMENT OF Biology
Name of Department Chair Henry G. Zot
Name of Person Completing Report Henry G. Zot

1*	Departmental Mission/Vision Statement (<i>url only, required</i>)	http:// www.westga.edu/~biology/
2*	Departmental Statement of Goals, Process to Assess These Goals, and Assessment Results (<i>url only, required</i>)	http:// www.westga.edu/~biology/
3*	Departmental Statement of Curriculum Learning Outcomes, Process to Assess These Outcomes, and Assessment Results for each Degree Program (<i>url only, required</i>)	http:// www.westga.edu/~biology/
4*	Statement of Departmental Condition - please indicate the specific strengths and weaknesses of your department.	
<u>STRENGTHS:</u>		
<u>Certain strengths remain:</u>		
<p>The biology department benefits from a caring faculty that achieves high marks from students in teaching evaluation, averaging 4.3 on a 5 point scale for all responses for all instructors. Instructional technology is up to date in all lecture classrooms and modern computers are available to all students. Advisors stay current by attending workshops. Faculty maintain active research that involves students. Biology students regularly present scholarship in forums on and off campus. Faculty apply regularly for research and equipment support both internally and externally. Faculty actively participate and pursue collaborations with internal and external constituencies.</p>		
<u>Additional strengths:</u>		
<p>Biology demonstrates a commitment to freshman success by incorporating peer led workshops, in-class activities, and a monitored student response system to supplement large lecture sections. Faculty willingly made painful concessions in order to improve the graduate program.</p>		
<u>WEAKNESSES:</u>		
<u>Some of the weaknesses remain:</u>		
<p>Though faculty have been active in raising external support for modern laboratory and field equipment, infrastructure remains a major concern for delivering basic laboratory instruction in antiquated labs with aging equipment. Enrollment increases stretch the limits of class sizes at the entry level. Unabated teaching overloads impact faculty morale and productivity. Application pool for graduate program remains chronically low.</p>		
<u>Others have been identified:</u>		
<p>Upper level class sizes are swelling. Salary compression is coupled with few alternatives to supplement income outside of teaching during the summer. Inability to offer on-campus Allied Health options to biology majors. Low applicant pools for faculty openings in microbiology presents a challenge to programming.</p>		
<u>OPPORTUNITIES:</u>		
<u>Certain opportunities remain:</u>		
<p>Opportunities to write curriculum related grants remain largely unexplored. Having contributed as co-principle investigators on numerous grants initiated across the campus, departmental faculty are poised to involve campus colleagues in grants initiated within the biology department.</p>		
<u>Other opportunities have been identified:</u>		
<p>Emphasis on graduation and retention presents an opportunity to improve advising practices. A renewed commitment makes reforming the graduate program possible. An opportunity on the horizon may develop through applied research brought by external groups such as the West Georgia Nano Business Alliance.</p>		
<u>THREATS:</u>		
<u>Certain threats remain:</u>		
<p>Low enrollment in graduate program endangers professional development and instructional capacity. Low morale owing to increasing enrollments, consistent overloads in teaching, and unaddressed salary compensation issues contribute to a poor climate for research productivity, which has negative consequences for student opportunities and instructional quality.</p>		
<u>Other threats have been identified:</u>		

Virtual absence of an institutional strategic plan for graduate education hampers the graduate experience and efforts to be accountable for graduate enrollments. The popular 2+2 Allied Health arrangement, in which students complete core courses at UWG but receive their degrees from MCG, contributes to an undercurrent of sustained transience that works against efforts to improve graduation rates.

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

5	Percent of Students passing licensing, certification, or other accreditation examinations related to their chosen field	NA
6	Proportion of graduating students going on to graduate or professional schools	0.42
7	Number of Nationally recognized programs.	0
8	Number of Endowed chairs and professorships	0
9	Types of Licensure <i>(please list)</i> NA	
10	How does the department prepare students for Licensure? NA	
11	Other notable achievements In the College of Arts & Sciences, biology leads in majors credit hour production (7 th out of 18 departments in non-majors credit hour production).	

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

12	Total Published Research Papers	4
13	Total Presentations	15
14	Total Internships	15
15	Total Co-ops	3
16	Total Scholarships	27
17	Total Fellowships	0
18	Total Students engaged in Funded Research	3
19	Total Students receiving National Awards and/or National Recognition	0
20	Total Students inducted into Academic Honor Societies	31
21	Total Student Programs (debate, cheerleaders, athletic teams) receiving National Recognition	0
22	Other notable achievements by Students Two students honored for the best presentations at student forums	

FACULTY/STAFF PRODUCTIVITY

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

TEACHING

23	Total New Course Developments	0
24	Total Faculty Teaching Honors Courses	1
25	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Teaching Purposes	0
26	Percent of Faculty involved in Academic Advisement	73

RESEARCH/PRODUCTIVITY

27	Total Books and Monographs	0
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28	Total Book Chapters	0
29	Total Peer Review Articles	4
30	Total Other Shorter Works	7
31	Total Paper Presentations	15
32	Total Other Presentation	4
33	Total In-House Publications	3
34	Total Juried Exhibits/Performances	NA
35	Total Other Exhibits/Performances	NA
36	Total Positions Held in Journal Editing/Review	0
37	Total Faculty involved in Notable Continuing Education Efforts	0
38	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Research Purposes	0
PUBLIC SERVICE		
39	Total Participants in Honors Organizations	6
40	Total Offices held in Professional Organizations	1
41	Total Advisors of Student Organizations	3
42	Total Participants in Cooperative Consulting Efforts	3
43	Total System-wide/UWG Committee Activities	20
44	Total Participants in Public Service Activities	11
45	Other notable achievements by Faculty	
GRANTS/AWARDS		
46	Total Proposals Submitted	3
47	Total Proposals Funded	1
48	Total Amount Awarded	192,490.64
49	Total Grants Generated by Department	4
50	Total Faculty receiving Grants	4
51	Total Fellowships Awarded	0
IMPORTANT: Please do not abbreviate. Please spell out all organization/program names.		
52	New Degree Programs or Deletions <i>(name of program and semester added/deleted)</i>	
	none	
53	New Departments or Other New Units; Also any Restructuring of These	
	none	
54	Accreditation or Similar Distinction or Renewal <i>(name of accrediting body and date department/program received accreditation)</i>	
	none	
55	Additional Comments Concerning Your Department	
	The department saw new leadership at the chair and interim leadership in the college.	
56*	Give an example of how your department used the assessment of goals and outcomes to change/improve a process. <i>(Required)</i> Teaching effectiveness is a stated goal of the department. To test teaching effectiveness of peer led groups, a member of the faculty compared groups of students and found that peer led workshops improved grade average and ability to answer specific exam questions. We now know that the workshops work, hence they are being incorporated on a regular basis into the curriculum.	

UPON COMPLETION

Please email completed report to:

Institutional Research and Planning

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