

PLO #1 – Research: *Select majors will be able to read and interpret research and/or apply the scientific method.*

Overall, the Kinesiology department has made positive strides increasing the number of research opportunities for our students, both by offering a research class in the fall and spring and by offering summer research opportunities on campus and in Bath, England. Prior to the 2014-2015 academic year, there was no way to assess this program learning outcome. During Spring of 2015, in conjunction with the research class, a grading rubric for student research was developed.

To assess this outcome, a rubric was developed and utilized to collect data on research posters and to grade lab reports and final papers.

### **1) What we learned about students' learning**

For the research class, the introduction and methods sections were written by seven students who were enrolled in the class. From this class, the rubric was assessed and was found to be complete and useful, both to the students and to the instructor. The introductions to the research papers for most of the students met the highest requirements on the rubric. However, for several students, the introductions lacked enough background and had citation errors, suggesting that improvement was still needed in interpreting and presenting research. All students had good hypotheses and purposes, as this was a focus of the research class. The methods for most of the students were also complete, although there were several small errors or omissions. This was possibly due to poor note taking during the research process and not taking care to fully understand the importance of precision in writing the methods section. This will be an increased focus during the upcoming semester.

The two posters presented in the spring semester were evaluated as well. Overall, the posters were laid out well and were easy to read. However, there was some missing information from both posters.

### **2) Changes we have made and plan to make to improve student learning**

From this past years' posters, one can see that our students need more work on the results and discussion sections of the posters, particularly with the statistical analysis. The methods section for most of the students was complete, although there were several small errors or omissions. This was possibly due to poor note taking during the research process and not fully understanding the importance of precision in writing the methods section. These areas will receive greater attention during the upcoming semester. In addition, the department intends to add Introduction to Statistics as a pre-requisite for the fall and spring KNS 198 courses.

### **3) Effectiveness of our current methods for assessing student achievement**

The rubric was an effective tool in assessing student work. It will continue to be refined in order to provide accurate and helpful feedback.

### **4) Potential changes to our assessment work**

We do not see a need to change our assessment strategy for this PLO.