UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

ACADEMIC LEARNING COMPACT

Marine Biology, B.S.

Mission Statement

In keeping with the University mission, the Department of Biology is dedicated to creation, transmission, application and preservation of knowledge. Within this framework, the primary mission of the Department of Biology is to develop, support and conduct high quality educational and research programs in the life sciences with emphasis on biology and biomedical programs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the Marine Biology program should be able to do the following:

Content

- Recognize appropriate classification, with respect to anatomical, physiological, and ecological characteristics of marine microbes, plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates.

Critical Thinking

- Evaluate the physical, chemical and geological characteristics of the marine environment and how they impact marine biology function.

Communication

- Use biological and marine environmental terminology correctly in oral and written form through the assessment of written lab reports or oral scientific presentations.

Integrity/Values

- Recognize ethical challenges in using animals for marine biology research and ethical challenges of in situ experiments with potential environmental consequences in the field.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Students in the Marine Biology degree program will be assessed for Content by gathering exam data in courses that introduce marine biology knowledge based on the curriculum map through exams, quizzes, or other assignments. The baseline data will be used to improve instruction at the introductory level of courses. Critical Thinking will be assessed by using laboratory courses to determine gains in student's ability to use the scientific method to evaluate how the marine environment relates to functioning of life in the oceans and estuaries. Students will be assessed in communication through identifying major

courses that incorporate paper or oral reports. Using the provided rubric we will then implement an improvement plan on scientific communication to assess any gains. Integrity/Values will be assessed by assessment of a case study or other activity involving scientific integrity with respect to marine biology questions. Biology faculty will review the outcome of all assessment procedures to evaluate the current status of the program, and make suggestions for further improvement in programmatic effectiveness.

Job Prospects for Marine Biology Graduates

- Federal agencies: Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Protection Agency National Park Service National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.
- State agencies: FL. Department of Environmental Protection FL. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission .
- Private industry: Aquaculture facilities Environmental consulting Zoos and Aquariums, Conservation organizations

Find out more about Marine Biology at UWF:
https://uwf.edu/programs/hmcse/marine-biology-bs/