

B.A. and B.S. in **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

THE LEADERS

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ASSESSMENT

Applying the process of science is one of the national Vision and Change core competencies for undergraduate biology majors that the B.A. and B.S. programs at Wayne State have adopted. To assess students' abilities in this area, faculty discussed the similarities and differences of a term paper assignment across three writing intensive courses, which requires careful reading of primary research literature and descriptions of how science progresses over time. Faculty members collect a sample of term papers submitted in those classes on a rotating basis as their assessment data.

IMPACT

Faculty discussions of course assignments, their importance within the larger picture of the curriculum and the assessment process has helped to increase coordination across the three courses. While the content of each course remains unique, each contributes to common program goals, which makes the curriculum more coherent for student learning. The 2015-16 data provide a baseline of student performance that faculty will compare with this year's data.



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