Title.

Middle Georgia State University Administrative Assessment

Instructions. This form is used to collect administrative assessments for each budgeted unit at Middle Georgia State University (academic and nonacademic units). Departments should include a brief mission statement (describing what they do and who they serve), goals the department or unit is working to accomplish (in a 5 year time frame. Your goals and objectives should be reported out individuals, linked to the plan imperatives and strategies, align with the measurable objectives from the previous year , and defined and measurable objectives for the upcoming year. This form should be completed by each budgeted unit no later than the end of July. NOTE: All fields are required, please place NA or O in response field ONLY if the numbered objective is not being utilized, otherwise full responses are required. Provide ALL necessary information requested to the fullest extent possible, such that a peer reviewer is not required to assume any information not provided. Utilize the provided assessment scoring rubric drafting guideline to evaluate your report prior to submission. https://www.mga.edu/institutional-research/docs/IEB_Administrative_Score_Card.pdf

Please SUBMIT the form within 30 minutes of opening this page. If you wait too long to submit you may lose your work In the event that you need to edit your submission, you may contact the Faculty Affairs Manager to secure a custom link to edit and resubmit.

Q1. Submitters Email

dawn.sherry@mga.edu

Q2. Who is the person responsible for this report?

Dawn Sherry

Q3. For which year are you completing this report?

- ○ FY 23 (July 2022-June 2023)
- ◉ FY 24 (July 2023-June 2024)
- ○ FY 25 (July 2024-June 2025)

Q4. To which division of the University is your unit assigned?

- ○ Office of the President
- ○ Advancement
- ◉ Academic Affairs
- ○ Fiscal Affairs
- ○ Enrollment Management
- ○ Student Affairs

Q5. For which department or area are you reporting? (Ex. Financial Aid, Library, OTR, Athletics, etc)

Natural Sciences

Q6. The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, report the mission statement for your department.

The department of Natural Sciences serves students ranging from science majors to students taking science courses for their core curriculum. Departmental programs prepare students for rigorous post- baccalaureate programs or to enter into today's competitive job markets by providing opportunities for students to advance their knowledge through undergraduate research and through experiential learning. The Department of Natural Sciences supports the scholarly atmosphere of the university by promoting faculty research and scholarly activity.

Q7. What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.

1) To increase biology majors engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects; 2) To increase participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium; 3) To review the B.S. Biology curriculum and compare it to the goals and objectives outlined in Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education (NSF 2009); and 4) To increase student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community.

0. Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY24. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY25.

8. Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To increase by 5%, biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences.

9. Objective 1: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

Students in Department of Natural Sciences programs can participate in undergraduate research through two different research pathways. Students can work directly with faculty on specific research projects (i.e., traditional undergraduate research projects) or they can participate in research that is offered through Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). CUREs are defined as re learning experiences in which whole classes of students address a research question or problem with unknown outcomes or solutions that is of interest to external stakeholders. CUREs offer an important way to expand research opportunities to all students in a program and not just those who seek out these opportunities to work directly with faculty. The department measured this objective by counting student enrollment in designated research courses, SCIE 2999 & BIOL 4894. The department chair pulled enrollment data at the end of the semester for most accurate counts. Faculty who requested to offer a CURE-course submitted applications for their work to the STEM IV grant committee. The Committee reviewed and approved these applications. This allowed the department to track CURE courses being offered and the faculty offering them. Because this is a STEM grant, faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics are also welcome to participate. They also submitted applications to offer CUREs in their courses. The remaining data was collected by counting the number of students participating in Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences within the AY year. Enrollment in these courses is pulled by the Chair at the end of the semester for most accurate counts.

10. Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

To increase participation in undergraduate research by 5% over last year.

11. Objective 1: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

Target performance level was based on discussions with peers at other institutions participating in the USG STEM IV grant. • FY 2022-23-total number of students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 was 15; total number of students enrolled in CUREs was 158. The specific CURE courses included CHEM 1212, 2212; BIOL 1001L, 3520; and MATH 1113. • FY 2023-24- total number of students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 was 32 (16-FA 23) (16-SP24); total number of students enrolled in CUREs was 99. The specific CURE courses included CHEM 1212, 2212, BIOL 1002K/L, 3211 and MATH 1401.

12. Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

The target was to increase undergraduate researchers to 16 students and the Department of Natural Sciences had 32 students enrolled in either Directed Studies or Senior Research courses this past year. The target was exceeded. The goal for students enrolled in CURE's was to increase the number of students to 166. This target was not met because some of the faculty offering CUREs this past year taught smaller classes (e.g., MATH 1401 had only 5 students in it, CHEM 2212 also had only 5 students in it, BIOL 3211 had only 10 students). The number of students participating in CUREs will vary depending on which faculty offer CURE sections and enrollment in those sections.

13. Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?

- ○ The department did not meet this objective.
- ◉ The department met this objective.
- ○ The department exceeded this objective.

14. Objective 1: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

The department has had considerable success in offering undergraduate research experiences for students, whether through direct supervision of research projects or through offering Course Related Undergraduate Research experiences. Faculty will be continue to be urged to consider offering CURE's in their fall and spring courses. We also request current faculty conducting CUREs to share their work with colleagues at the STEMposium to help increase interest in the department. We plan to continue this work in the upcoming year.

15. Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To increase by 5% participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium.

16. Objective 2: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

A count of the number of faculty & student presenters and a count of attendees. The department requests attendees to sign in. The department produces a program for the STEMposium which lists all presenters (see additional information submitted). • Past Performance: At the Spring 2023, a total of 22 current MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Students included mathematics, biology, chemistry and information technology students. The Spring 2023 STEMposium also had 3 MGA alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & Information Technology disciplines. Six faculty members co-authored scientific poster presentations. Four faculty members, who offered CUREs in their courses, shared information about their projects with conference attendees. These presentations served both to promote these CURE projects to new students and also to other faculty, who might want to offer CUREs in their own courses in the future. • Current Performance: At the Spring 2024 STEMposium, a total of 33 current MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Student presenters included biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and information technology disciplines. The Spring 2024 STEMposium also brought in 3 alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & information technology disciplines. Fourteen faculty members co-authored scientific poster or oral presentations. Three faculty members who offered CUREs in their classes shared information about their projects with conference attendees.

17. Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

5% increase in participation by students and faculty in the STEMposium.

18. Objective 2: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

The target performance level was established based on past performance data.

19. Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

The Department had a 40% increase in student participation in SP 2024 (n=22 in SP 23 to n=29 in SP 24). There was also a 62% increase in faculty participation from SP 23 (n=8) to SP 24 (n=14). The conference attendance was approximately 55 people, which was equivalent to last year's conference attendance numbers.

20. Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?

- ○ The department did not meet this objective.
- ○ The department met this objective.
- ◉ The department exceeded this objective.

21. Objective 2: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

The department continues to grow opportunities for students to complete undergraduate research projects. We will continue to offer these opportunities to students who are interested in pursuing undergraduate research. The addition of funding for undergraduates to present their work at conferences from the Provost's office will strengthen the efforts of students to present their work at conferences beyond MGA.

22. Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To review 100% of the B.S. Biology curriculum and compare it to the goals and objectives outlined in Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education (NSF 2009).

23. Objective 3: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

Faculty instructors of upper level required courses were sent surveys asking them to identify content covered in each of the upper-level biology courses. Instructors for a specific upper-level course were asked to identify content covered in their course. Non-instructors of that course were asked to identify areas of overlap from other courses they teach. Faculty were also asked to describe at what level and by what methods content was covered We generated a heat map that characterizes content coverage across all upper-level courses. We mapped topics back to V&C concepts & competencies.

24. Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

100% of courses mapped.

25. Objective 3: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

This target performance level was based on comparison to other institutions.

26. Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

0%. Unfortunately, this work was not able to be completed this year due to Chair's lack of time to complete this project.

27. Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?

- (●) The department did not meet this objective.
- ( ) The department met this objective.
- ( ) The department exceeded this objective.

28. Objective 3: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

The department is going to move into a different direction in the upcoming year. We have been approached to participate in a PULSE review, which would bring outside biology program reviewers to MGA to meet with faculty and students about our programs, however, this opportunity is cost-prohibitive and we will not be able to pursue this at this time. Therefore, we will look to another more attainable departmental objective in the upcoming year.

29. Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To grow by 5%, student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community.

30. Objective 4: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

The target performance level was based on comparisons to peer program reviews at other institutions.

31. Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

5%, growth in student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community.

32. Objective 4: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

Past Performance data: In 2022-23, the department hosted or participated in six external events. These events are defined as events that primarily benefit the surrounding community or promote the department or programs in the surrounding community. They include events such as hosting the Science Olympiad, entering a team in the Magnolia Soapbox Derby, participating in Bleckley County Science Night events, etc. The department also hosted or participated in five internal events. These events target current students at MGA and include hosting the Young Physicians Initiative meetings (a program bringing Mercer Medical students to meet with MGA students); the STEMposium; the Natural Sciences Alumni Speaker series, etc. Our goal was to grow by 5%, student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community.

33. Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

Our goal was to host 7 external events and 6 internal events in 2023-2024. The department hosted double the number of external events compared to last year (n=12 FA 23-SP24 compared to 6 events last AY). The department more than doubled the number of internal events this hosted this past AY, with 12 internal events this past AY compared to 5 last year. Event details below and evidence attached. In Fall 2023-Spring 2024, the department hosted or participated in the following external events (total of 12) (see evidence in attachments): • Upward Bound Summer STEM Camp, Summer 2023 • Science Night Event, Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta GA, Fall 2023 • Participated in Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences, Creepy Crawly Night at the Museum, Fall 2023 • Hosted Science Olympiad, 2024, Spring 2024 • Hosted Mary Persons High School, BioBlitz Event, Spring 2024 • Bleckley County Science Night, Fall 2023 • Macon Beer Festival table hosts, Fall 2023 • Fish Pathogens and Biodiversity, Training Workshop for Georgia DNR Fisheries staff, Fall 2023 • A practical introduction to generating genomic data using the Oxford Nanopore MinION sequencing platform, Training provided to members of the American Society of Parasitologists, Fall 2023 • Departmental Faculty Participated in two HOSA events hosted by the SOHNS, one in Cochran, one in Macon in Spring 2024 and one HOSA event hosted in Fall 2023 in Cochran. In Fall 2023-Spring 2024, the department hosted or participated in the following internal events (total of 12): • STEMposium, spring 2024 • Majors Mixer, FA 23, Cochran & Macon campuses • The Department co-hosted a Scholarship of Teaching Pedagogy Workshop for Department of Natural Sciences faculty with Dr. Rod McRae from the CETL in fall 2023. • The department hosted Eclipse Viewing events on both the Macon and Cochran campuses. These events were open to the on-campus and public, spring 2024. • Science Club hosted the annual plant sale on the Cochran campus, spring 2024. • The department co-hosted with the local ACS section a SOTL workshop and talk entitled " Assessment of Knowledge & Curriculum Adoption of Green Chemistry", spring 2024. Invited speaker, Dr. Alex Leontyev presented. • Dr. Christine Rigsby has formed a partnership with Mercer University Medical students to regularly host the Young Physicians Initiative (YPI) meetings on the Macon campus. YPI are medical students from Mercer University who are working with MGA to offer insights and informational opportunities about medical school to interested undergrads. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings throughout 2023 (e.g., Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, 2023) they also invite MGA students to participate in "Doctor for a Day" Events held at Mercer University.

34. Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?

- ○ The department did not meet this objective.
- ○ The department met this objective.
- ◉ The department exceeded this objective.

35. Objective 4: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

Departmental faculty will continue to be encouraged to continue to participate in community engagement activities and to foster partnerships with outside organizations in order to raise the profile of the Department of Natural Sciences in the community and within the university.

36. Based on your goals and objectives listed above please indicate their connection with MGA's Strategic Plan (https://www.mga.edu/about/strategic-plan/docs/Strategic_Plan_2023-2028.pdf) by checking all associated and relevant Strategies from the list below. (Check all the apply)

- ☑ Champion Student Success 1. Demonstrate standards of excellence in all academic programs
- ☑ Champion Student Success 2. Grow student engagement at all degree levels
- ☐ Champion Student Success 3. Expand enrollment and graduation
- ☑ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 4. Ensure high-demand programs for workforce and career alignment
- ☐ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 5. Use Center for Middle Georgia Studies to drive University outreach
- ☑ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 6. Coordinate faculty scholarship and grant awards to build University reputation
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 7. Plan, resource, and promote campus roles and identities
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 8. Pursue great-place/college -to-work designation
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 9. Promote culture of wellness throughout the MGA community
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 10. Compete and win at the NCAA Division II level

- [ ] Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 11. Apply data-driven accountability to all operations
- [x] Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 12. Maintain access, affordability and value for all students
- [ ] Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 13. Grow and diversity streams of revenue

37. Please indicate which of the following actions you took as a result of the 2022/2023 Assessment Cycle **(prior cycle)** (Note: These actions are documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area)(Check all the apply)

- [x] Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate Members of the Campus Community
- [ ] Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate External Stakeholders
- [x] Faculty or Staff Support: Professional Development Activities, Trainings, Workshops, Technical Assistance
- [ ] Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc Operational Processes
- [ ] Request for Additional Financial or Human Resources
- [ ] Customer Service Changes: Communication, Services, etc
- [x] Making Improvements to Teaching Approach, Course Design, Curriculum, Scheduling, other
- [ ] Evaluating and/or Revising the Reporting Lines Internal Assessment Processes
- [ ] Other

38. Please indicate which of the following actions you will take as a result of the 2023/2024 Assessment Cycle **(current cycle)** (Note: These actions must be documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area)(Check all the apply)

- [x] Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate Members of the Campus Community
- [ ] Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate External Stakeholders
- [x] Faculty or Staff Support: Professional Development Activities, Trainings, Workshops, Technical Assistance
- [ ] Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc Operational Processes
- [x] Request for Additional Financial or Human Resources
- [ ] Customer Service Changes: Communication, Services, etc
- [x] Making Improvements to Teaching Approach, Course Design, Curriculum, Scheduling, other
- [ ] Evaluating and/or Revising the Reporting Lines Internal Assessment Processes
- [ ] Other

39. Please provide a **comprehensive narrative** outlining how assessment results are utilized for continuous improvement in this field. Your narrative **should be of sufficient length and detail** to address the past, present, and future aspects of assessment, with specific emphasis on how these results inform decision-making and drive improvement efforts.

Administrative Unit assessment results provide an opportunity for Departments to reflect on whether or not the objectives that have been set in the previous year have been met. If objectives have not been met, the assessment process allows for an examination of obstacles as well as an opportunity to seek solutions for those obstacles. Conversely, if objectives have been met, they offer an opportunity to celebrate milestones accomplished and to set new goals or objectives for the future. The goals that the Department of Natural Sciences has been working towards are as follows: 1) To increase biology majors engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects; 2) To increase participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium; 3) To review the B.S. Biology curriculum and compare it to the goals and objectives outlined in Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education (NSF 2009); and 4) To increase student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community. PAST The Department of Natural Sciences has been participating in the USG STEM grant work for over seven years now. These grant monies have provided important financial support to allow the Department to fully participate in the goals and objectives of MGA's Strategic Plan. A longstanding goal of the department has been to increase biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects. Over the years, we have done this using both the traditional "apprenticeship" style research projects, wherein, students work individually with faculty on specific research projects. Several years ago, we expanded opportunities to all students by encouraging faculty to offer Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) in their classes. In the past several years, the Department has consistently exceeded its targets related to increasing participation in undergraduate research projects and CUREs. • The focus on creating undergraduate research opportunities has led to an increase in departmental faculty scholarship, both in areas of traditional research and also in the scholarship of teaching. Building the scholarship aspect and accumulating important research equipment and lab space, has helped the department to recruit new faculty who are pursuing scholarship and overseeing undergraduate research projects. We also asked faculty who were offering CUREs to share their work with colleagues at the STEMposium. This allowed them to both highlight their work and to encourage other faculty to incorporate CUREs in their courses over the next year. • To provide an opportunity for undergraduate researchers to present their work to the campus and surrounding community in a STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium. This goal was introduced to provide opportunities for both students and faculty to share their scholarship with peers and other departments. Our hope is to continue growing this conference. Communicating the work of the faculty and students increases engagement by expanding and enriching the face-to-face student experience, expands awareness experiential learning opportunities to all STEM students and has helped us to attract faculty talent to the University. • To review B.S. Biology curriculum and bring it into alignment with the goals and objectives outlined in Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education (NSF 2009). Ensuring that biology program curriculum meets the standards that students need to competitive in rigorous graduate or post-baccalaureate professional programs is important to departmental faculty. Additionally, ensuring that our program meets the needs of 21st century science-oriented careers is also important. The department undertook a comprehensive review of program outcomes and curricula in the fall of 2021. Using the concepts and competencies outlined in the Vision & Change report produced by NSF to help biology educators modernize undergraduate biology education, the department surveyed faculty teaching upper level required courses to determine what content was being covered in these courses. The goal was to identify areas of high overlap and/or gaps in content coverage with an eye towards improving the program overall. • There are many reasons to promote Natural Sciences departmental engagement in the surrounding communities. Building positive relationships with the community can lead to collaborations, partnerships and support for the department. This could include funding opportunities, access to local resources and a network of advocate's for the department's work. Another reason is to promote public understanding of science. Community engagement helps to demystify science and promote interest in science. By explaining complex topics in understandable terms, the department can increase public understanding and appreciation of scientific endeavors. Outreach activities can also be important in inspiring future scientists. Early exposure to scientific concepts can help to promote a lifelong interest in the sciences. The faculty have long engaged in community outreach, but we wanted to raise our profile in the surrounding community. Therefore, faculty were challenged to pursue new opportunities to engage in community outreach this past year. CURRENT • In FY 2023-24 the total number of students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 was 32 (16-FA 23) (16-SP24), whereas the total number of students enrolled in CUREs was 99. The specific CURE courses included CHEM 1212, 2212, BIOL 1002K/L, BIOL 3211 and MATH 1401. Students in CURE courses included non-majors and biology majors. The projects ranged from parasitology to statistical analysis of online versus face-to-face course grades, to determining water quality parameters for fish. Faculty observed • The Department of Natural Sciences successfully co-hosted the STEMposium in Spring 2024 with an increase of 50% in both student and faculty participation over last year. At the Spring 2024 STEMposium, a total of 33 current MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Student presenters included biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and information technology disciplines. The Spring 2024 STEMposium also brought in 3 alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & information technology disciplines. Fourteen faculty members co-authored scientific poster or oral presentations. Three faculty members who offered CUREs in their classes, shared information about their projects with conference attendees. • The third objective this year was to map 100% of the upper level required course curriculum and compare it to the Vision and Change NSF outcomes. At this time, 25% of the courses have been completed. Biology program faculty were surveyed several years ago to determine content covered in upper level required courses. Preliminary results for BIOL 3540K and BIOL 3104K were tallied and a curriculum heat map was generated for those two courses in the program. The loss of faculty and staff in the department has hindered this work. Additionally, there has been turnover in the department and in the textbooks being used for courses which would necessitate a new survey. Perhaps this can be done down the road, but the department is going to move on from this work in the upcoming year. • A final objective of this year was to grow student engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community. This past AY, the department hosted or participated in 12 external events and 10 internal events. These events included working with the Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences, Bibb County Upward Bound, Bleckley County schools, Mary Persons High school and the Georgia DNR. Internal events were designed to provide MGA students information about professional careers (e.g., Young Physicians Initiative, co-hosted with Mercer University Medical students) or faculty development (e.g., pedagogy workshops co-hosted with MGA's CETL or ACS). We have had an active year in community engagement and hope to continue growing in this area. Future In concordance with the new mission of Middle Georgia State University, the Department of Natural Sciences will continue to strive towards the following goals: 1) To increase biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences; 2) To provide an opportunity for undergraduate researchers and faculty to present their work to the campus and surrounding community in a STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium; and 3) To grow student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community; 4) To offer work based learning/internship opportunities to Biology majors.

40. Please indicate (if appropriate) any local, state, or national initiatives (academic or otherwise) that are influential in the operations, or goals, and objectives of your unit. (Complete College Georgia, USG High Impact Practice Initiative, LEAP, USG Momentum Year, Low-Cost No-Cost Books, etc)

The USG STEM Initiative and the High Impact Practice Initiatives are influential in the operations, goals and objectives of the Department of Natural Sciences.

41. Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples.1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.

• To increase by 5%, biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences. • To maintain at the same level as 2023-2024, participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium. • To grow by 5%, student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community. This will be measured by counting the number of internal and external events hosted or participated in by the Department of Natural Sciences. • To document the baseline number of biology majors participating in internships or work-based learning experiences. This will be measured by counting students enrolled in SCIE 4200.

42. Optional Mindset Update (Academic Deans ONLY) Please provide an update on the implementation of your school based mindset plan/strategy. Include any adjustments to metrics for the FY23 as well as outcomes associated with your appraisal of your schools activities.

43. Optional: The following upload portal is available to supplement your report with supportive documentation should you wish to provide any (instruments, data, etc).

AY23-24 Dept Nat Sciences Supporting Evidence.pdf
6.5MB
application/pdf