General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: NuFS 139
GE Area: R

Results reported for AY: 2015-16
# of sections: 16
# of instructors: 11

Course Coordinator: Kasuen Mauldin, PhD, RD
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Department Chair: Lucy McProud, PhD, RD
College: College of Applied Sciences & Arts

Instructions: Each year, the department will prepare a brief (two page maximum) report that documents the assessment of the course during the year. This report will be electronically submitted to <curriculum@sjsu.edu>, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by October 1 of the following academic year.

Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What GELO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

GELO 1: Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation.
GELO 2: Students will be able to distinguish science from pseudo-science
GELO 3: Students will be able to apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

Kasuen Mauldin is new to the NuFS 139 coordinator role, starting this academic year. We currently do not have previous assessment data to report, but we have a clear plan in place to collect assessment data moving forward, starting this Fall 2015 semester. A summary of actions taken/planned are below:

- All NuFS 139 instructors (11 total) attended and will continue to attend the beginning-of-the-semester GE coordination meetings to discuss assessment activities and plans for the semester.
- A new uniform syllabus template has been implemented started Fall 2015. All NuFS 139 instructors are now using the same syllabus template.
- Three GELO/SLO assessment assignments were identified, and Kasuen Mauldin developed uniform assignment sheets and grading rubrics for the three GELO assignments. All NuFS 139 instructors are implementing these three assessment assignments in their classes this semester.
- Kasuen Mauldin created an excel file for GELO assessment data collection and analysis of data from all NuFS 139 sections. We will have assessment data to report by the end of the Fall 2015 semester.
• Kasuen Mauldin will organize an end-of-the-semester meeting to gather all NuFS 139 instructors so they can provide feedback on current GELO assessment assignments, discuss modifications, and share best practices to ensure effective teaching.

(3) What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

Many modifications to the assessment activities and schedule have been implemented and planned. A summary is above.

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

(4) Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes, all sections of the course align. For example, Kasuen Mauldin completed a thorough analysis of all section greensheets and created a new uniform syllabus template for all NuFS 139 instructors to use.

(5) If this course is in a GE Area with a stated enrollment limit (Areas A1, A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z), please indicate how oral presentations will be evaluated with larger sections (Area A1), or how practice and revisions in writing will be addressed with larger sections, particularly how students are receiving thorough feedback on the writing which accounts for the minimum word count in this GE category (Areas A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z) and, for the writing intensive courses (A2, A3, and Z), documentation that the students are meeting the GE SLOs for writing.

NuFS 139 has an enrollment cap of 30 students per section. Instructors may add some students based on their discretion. In Fall 2014, there were 15 sections of NuFS 139 offered with an average section size of 28.3 (data from iea.sjsu.edu). In Spring 2015, there were 13 sections of NuFS 139 offered with an average section size of 30.3 (data from iea.sjsu.edu).

All students complete a variety of oral and written assignments in the form of presentations, group projects, debate paper, journals, etc. Rubrics are provided to students to guide them in writing papers and utilized by faculty in providing feedback on work submitted. Students are also encouraged to utilize the services of the CASA Student Success Center and the Writing Center to improve the quality of the written reports. The written assignments account for more than the required 3000 word limit for the course. Most faculty use Canvas for organizing course content and are able to comment and provide feedback and communicate with the student in a private setting via Canvas.