

2 December, 2013

Helen Bergland, PhD
Student Learning, Assessment & Instruction

Dr. Bergland,

The program in Environmental Science at Eastern Washington University was without a formal program director from the summer of 2011 through spring 2013, at which time I was appointed Director. During this period of time, there did not exist a plan for collecting or assessing student performance. The program has undergone extensive revision, with the help of several Faculty in Biology, Chemistry, and Geology, and now includes a more attractive curriculum, and clearly defined and measurable student learning objectives. The objectives are presented below. Objectives 1-4 will be assessed during students senior year in their capstone courses or an equivalent senior-level course which includes subject matter integrated across Biology, Chemistry and Geology (eg. GEOL 462: Principles of Biogeochemistry). Student Learning Objective 5 will be assessed by tracking students after graduation. The program faculty look forward to growing the Environmental Science Program and conducting future assessments of student performance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A. Ross Black, PhD

Student Learning Objectives: students will...

1. Develop an integrated knowledge of major concepts in the area of environmental sciences and an understanding of fundamental roles that biology, chemistry, and geology play in environmental science.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the interrelationships among the physical and biological components of ecosystems.
3. Use epistemologically sound quantitative techniques for the analysis of biotic and abiotic samples and systems.
4. Demonstrate effective oral, graphical, and written communication abilities, and critical thinking skills as related to the environmental sciences.
5. Develop sufficient preparation in the environmental sciences to successfully compete in a graduate or professional program, or to realize employment in an environmental sciences-related career.