
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

GOAL 2 for **Biomedical Sciences**

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 2: Increase undergraduate, graduate, and professional graduation rates.

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: SMHS Units will expand their current systems of student support to ensure continued high graduation rates and improve student satisfaction with the overall quality of their education.

1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

BIMD501. This course was designed to provide fundamental concepts and methods in biochemistry and molecular biology to typical biomedical and biology graduate students. After successfully completing this course, students should be able to: (1) Identify, read, interpret, and analyze the current general and scientific literature as it applies to unsolved, topical questions at the forefront of the biomedical sciences; (2) Apply foundational, cross-disciplinary knowledge in biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, and other biomedical disciplines to identify and explore current hypotheses and address gaps in our knowledge with regard to complex biological questions; (3) Learn the fundamentals of solid experimental design and critical data analysis with an emphasis on exploring state of the art methodology and designing both carefully controlled experiments and logical workflows for use in the research laboratory; (4) Develop oral and written communication skills to communicate complex scientific material including the significance and broader impacts of ongoing scientific research to members of the scientific community and to the public.

BIMD518. This course that was designed to directly prepare our students to successfully complete their comprehensive examination by challenging the students: to (1) to critically evaluate their own research in an effort to clearly define the significance and innovation of their research projects, (2) to begin to develop novel ideas based on their research efforts that have the potential to significantly impact their field of study, and (3) to prepare students to present these ideas orally and in writing in a manner that is both logical and convincing.

ANAT 204 & PPT 301 to BIMD 220/221. 220/221 are a combined two semester sequence of human anatomy and physiology courses that were designed to replace the long standing independent ANAT 204 and PPT 301 courses offered from our department. Previously ANAT 204 and PPT 301 have been high DFW rate courses. Although the courses just launched in fall 2020 the first semester of BIMD 220 has reduced this DFW rate to 15%. Additionally, the instructor of record for BIMD 220/221 has worked extensively with student services to offer continued tutoring support for these classes.

BIMD 301 and BIMD 401. The DFW rates for these courses is relatively low. This is primarily because about half the final grade is determined by the formative assessments including quizzes, participation in in-class activities, and peer & self-evaluations. Starfish is used to flag students who have early deficiencies. In addition, students must communicate with the instructor if they are to be excused for an in-class activity. Multiple absences will trigger an email inquiry by the instructor to the student. The OSRR is contacted directly for special cases. The goal is to get each student to complete the course.

The undergraduate instructors monitor DFW rates in their courses each semester/year. They fully understand the positive correlation that active learning practices have on student retention and success, and have developed their courses to include literature-based, best practices in active learning.

2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

We will continue to monitor these courses for DFW rates and work with student services.

All undergraduate and graduate courses have the opportunity to be evaluated annually by the departmental undergraduate and graduate education committees, respectively.

The instructors utilize internal assessment forms that are completed at the conclusion of each academic year. DFW rates and grade distributions are part of this assessment.

BIMD 301 and BIMD 401: A detailed roster is maintained and updated for every in-class session that tracks excused and unexcused absences. The nature of excused absences is also tracked. Zoom participants are being tracked as of 2022.

SELFI data is also used for assessment.

3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

The annual course evaluation includes review of course syllabus and course objectives, grade outcomes, DFW rates, SELFI evaluations, reflective statements and goals for next year by the instructor, and peer feedback.

The undergraduate assessment forms are reviewed by the other undergraduate instructors and feedback is given for continuous improvement of the courses. Changes are made to new iterations of the course based on this feedback and the student feedback included in the SELFI.

4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

Course evaluations inform future changes with the aim of striving for best practices. One significant barrier is the inability to schedule SMHS classrooms on a schedule that is observed by the main campus.

PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL: X  On Track;  Delayed;  Behind

(additional space for text is provided on page 3 if needed)

Additional Information on Goal 2 (optional):

Insert any additional information here.