

## Department of Natural Sciences

Office or Department of Academic Affairs

### Administrative Unit Assessment Report Information

Year Reporting: FY21 (July 2020 – June 2021)

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### Department Mission and Goals

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, you will report the mission statement for your department as well as the long term goals (5 year range) for the department.

6. What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.

The department of Natural Sciences prepares 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 through grants and travel

## Objectives

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 FY21. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY22.

### Objective 1

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

	students participated in undergraduate research experiences than in the past.
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**Objective 2**

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

To provide faculty seed grants for scholarly and c

### **Objective 3**

20. Objective 3: What was this department's third

#### Objective 4

26. Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	To expand experiential learning opportunities for students (e.g., new undergraduate research projects, etc.)
27. Objective 4: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Number of experiential learning courses offered will be counted. Number of participants in experiential learning opportunities will be counted (e.g., student participants in undergraduate research conferences, research, etc.)
28. Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	5% increase in experiential learning courses offered. 5% increase in participant number in undergraduate research conference presenters.
29. 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)	SCIE 2999 sections: Fall 2020-0 sections; Spring 2021-0 sections. BIOL 4120-2 sections; BIOL 4894: 1 section Undergraduate Conference cancelled due to COVID-19
30. Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?	The department did not meet this objective.
31. Objective 4: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	Covid-19 precautions prevented student research, internship and conferences this past year.



### Open Box for Assessment Comments

<p>33. Based on this assessment, please share your thoughts on the current status and future direction of this department or area. Use this space to summarize overall use of assessment results for continuous improvement and open text box for assessment comments:</p>	<p>The department of Natural Sciences is committed to growing both student and faculty scholars over the next five years. Both groups will benefit the local, state and regional community. Although some goals were not met, the B.S. Biology program should be promoted as an affordable way to obtain a quality science degree in Georgia. Students who have graduated the program are being admitted to graduate programs, medical &amp; dental programs and teaching in local high schools. The program would benefit from the institution following alumni to determine job placement and graduate/professional school acceptance. We are optimistic that as students return to campus, we will be able to offer more research opportunities to those that do.</p>
<p>37. If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic caused the shutdown of all face-to-face operations at MGA. This prevented students and faculty from accessing science labs for half of the spring and all of the summer semesters in 2020. Undergraduate research was severely limited by this. As we moved into the fall, social distancing requirements, the need for hybrid courses and content creation for lectures/labs meant that undergraduate research was also impacted in the fall. It should be noted that the CURE's were expanded during this time. It is hoped as we return to face-to-face, we will be able to get back to expected levels of undergraduate research.</p>

## MGA's Strategic Plan

34. Based on your goals and objectives listed above please indicate their connection with MGA's Strategic Plan ([https://www.mga.edu/about/docs/Strategic\\_Plan\\_Overall\\_DB.pdf](https://www.mga.edu/about/docs/Strategic_Plan_Overall_DB.pdf)) by checking all associated and relevant Imperatives / Strategies from the list below. (Check all the apply)

Grow Enrollment with Purpose  
1. Expand and enrich the face to face student experience, Own Student Success 4. Expand student engagement and experiential learning, Build Shared Culture 5. Attract talent and enhance employee development and retention

35. Pleas

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