

Preface

This curriculum example was written by Steve Weppner. It should in no way be construed as official or even the direction that this committee is heading. It was developed as an example to illicit criticism and motivate discussion. Most of the ideas do come from previous discussions of the committee

The Eckerd College Mission

The mission of Eckerd College is to provide an undergraduate liberal arts education and lifelong learning programs of the highest quality in the unique environment of Florida, within the context of a strong relationship with the Presbyterian Church and in a spirit of innovation.

The Natural Sciences at Eckerd College

Our mission, as faculty within the Natural Science Collegium at Eckerd College, is to facilitate the science education for the Eckerd community.

To wit we will provide a fundamental knowledge of science and the scientific method to all students attending Eckerd College as well as bestowing an appreciation for science's social, economic, and ethical implications as well as its role in a liberal arts education.

For our science majors we will prepare them for teaching, graduate school, and industry by

- developing their fundamental analytical reasoning skills within a scientific context
- exposing them to a variety of research techniques in the sciences
- strengthening and nurturing faculty-student interaction in classroom, mentoring, and research environments
- exposing them to the shared vision of the Eckerd Sciences by providing interdisciplinary lectures, seminars and classes
- strengthening their oral and written skills

We will do this within an Eckerd College environment which offers unique opportunities to study the interdisciplinary fields of Marine Science and Environmental Studies on the Florida coast.

The Science Curriculum in Practice

We need to constantly re-examine this mission to make sure we are in agreement with and are meeting its goals to the best of our abilities.

In practice we should continually strive for:

- general guidelines for our scientific perspectives which institute adequate levels of breadth, rigor,

and experiment

- A due diligence regarding the quality of the scientific lessons contained within our common general education classes which highlight the creativity of scientific analysis

For our science majors:

- smaller classes and laboratories, especially at the introductory level to enhance faculty-student interaction
- a curriculum which challenges our students in the first year which in the ideal accurately determines their potential as science majors and future science professionals
- a continual strengthening of the recognition of the importance of faculty-student research and structured student internships across the Eckerd campus
- a mechanism in which the interdisciplinary nature of the sciences is cultivated within the context of a strong foundational environment
- Ongoing assessment of our seniors and alumni to make sure our goals and/or their outcomes are being met
- a working relationship with admissions to develop methods of attracting motivated students

This process will have oversight by introducing:

- a Natural Science structure which monitors curriculum mechanisms, assessment, efficiency, and mission consistency across the collegium
- a Natural Science structure which helps the chair determine our Collegial needs and priorities for our human resources, building space, instruments