

**Kinesiology M.S.  
Assessment of Student Learning Report  
2020**

**A. Program Information**

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 Program: Kinesiology MS  
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**B. Outcome Reporting**

**Student Learning Outcomes**

A student graduating with a MS degree in Kinesiology will demonstrate

- A. Kinesiology Factual Knowledge: An advanced level of knowledge relevant to one’s individual field of study (exercise physiology or public health physical activity)
- B. Critical Thinking: The ability to digest, summarize and critique the scientific literature
- C. Research Methodology: The ability to apply the scientific method to design and conduct publishable high quality research.
- D. Communication Skills: The ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in both written and oral forms.

**Assessment Methods**

**Thesis:** Upon completion of the public defense and private conversation with the committee, each committee member rates the student’s performance relative to the Student Learning Outcomes.

	<b>1. Deficient</b>	<b>2. Acceptable</b>	<b>3. Above Average</b>	<b>4. Outstanding</b>
<i><b>Kinesiology Factual Knowledge:</b> An advanced level of knowledge relevant to one’s individual field of study (exercise physiology or public health physical activity).</i>				
<b>Level of factual knowledge of kinesiology reflected in written thesis.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects acceptable level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects above average level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects outstanding level of factual knowledge.
<b>Level of factual knowledge of kinesiology reflected in oral defense.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects acceptable level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects above average level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects outstanding level of factual knowledge.

<b>Critical Thinking Skills: The ability to digest, summarize and critique the scientific literature.</b>				
<b>Level of critical thinking skills reflected in written thesis.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of critical thinking skills	__ Reflects acceptable critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects above average critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects outstanding critical thinking skills.
<b>Level of critical thinking skills reflected in oral defense.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of critical thinking skills	__ Reflects acceptable critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects above average critical thinking skills	__ Reflects outstanding critical thinking skills

<b>Communications Skills: The ability to express oneself clearly, accurately, and professionally in both oral and written form.</b>				
<b>Level of communications skills reflected in written thesis.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects acceptable ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects above average ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects outstanding ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form
<b>Level of communications skills reflected in oral defense.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally orally.	__ Reflects acceptable ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally orally.	__ Reflects above average ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally orally.	__ Reflects outstanding ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally orally.

<b>Research Methodology: The ability to apply the scientific method to design and conduct publishable high quality research.</b>				
<b>Level of research methodology reflected in written thesis.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects acceptable understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects above average understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects outstanding understanding of research methodology.

**Coursework + Examination:** Upon completion of the comprehensive final examination, each committee member rates the student's performance with regard to the Student Learning Outcomes.

1. Deficient	2. Acceptable	3. Above Average	4. Outstanding	
<b>Kinesiology Factual Knowledge:</b> <i>An advanced level of knowledge relevant to one's individual field of study (exercise physiology or public health physical activity).</i>				
<b>Level of factual knowledge of kinesiology reflected in written examination.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects acceptable level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects above average level of factual knowledge.	__ Reflects outstanding level of factual knowledge.
<b>Critical Thinking Skills:</b> <i>The ability to digest, summarize and critique the scientific literature.</i>				
<b>Level of critical thinking skills reflected in written examination.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low level of critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects acceptable critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects above average critical thinking skills.	__ Reflects outstanding critical thinking skills.
<b>Communications Skills:</b> <i>The ability to express oneself clearly, accurately, and professionally in both oral and written form.</i>				
<b>Level of communications skills reflected in written examination.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects acceptable ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects above average ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.	__ Reflects outstanding ability to express oneself clearly, accurately and professionally in written form.
<b>Research Methodology:</b> <i>The ability to apply the scientific method to design (exam; thesis) and conduct (thesis) publishable high quality research.</i>				
<b>Level of research methodology reflected in written examination.</b>	__ Reflects unacceptably low understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects acceptable understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects above average understanding of research methodology.	__ Reflects outstanding understanding of research methodology.

## Results

Over the course of the evaluation period from Spring 2013 through Fall 2018, 81 students graduated with an MS degree in Kinesiology. Of these, 39 (48%) were women.

## Thesis

Thirty-one (31) students successfully (100%) defended their thesis work during this period. The average and range of individual scores (out of 4.00) for each of the Student Learning Outcomes for 19 of those students were;

**Thesis (n = 19, 61%)**

	<b>Average</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Range</b>
Factual knowledge of kinesiology written	3.24	0.62	(2.0 - 4.0)
Factual knowledge of kinesiology, oral	3.21	0.64	(2.0 - 4.0)
Critical thinking skills, written	3.03	0.61	(2.0 - 4.0)
Critical thinking skills, oral	3.01	0.68	(2.0 - 4.0)
Communication skills, written	3.19	0.64	(1.67 - 4.0)
Communication skills, oral	3.08	0.54	(2.0 - 4.0)
Level of research methodology	3.23	0.64	(2.0 - 4.0)
<b>Student average for above SLOs</b>	<b>3.13</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>(1.92 - 4.0)</b>

**Coursework**

Fifty (50) students took the written examination as their culminating evaluation for the coursework option. Of these, 49 successfully passed the examination on their first attempt, while one student required a second attempt, which was subsequently successfully passed. The average and range of scores (out of 4.00) on the Student Learning Outcomes for 26 of these students were:

**Course work (n = 26, 52%)**

	<b>Average</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Range</b>
Level of factual knowledge of kinesiology	2.87	0.58	(1.8 - 3.67)
Level of critical thinking	2.70	0.55	(1.67 - 4.0)
level of communication skills	2.84	0.55	(1.8 - 3.67)
level of research methodology	2.70	0.62	(1.67 - 4.0)
<b>Student average for above SLOs</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>(1.72 - 3.71)</b>

**The number of students who achieved at each level for both the coursework and thesis options were:**

	<b>Deficient (1.0 - 1.49)</b>	<b>Acceptable 1.50 - 2.49)</b>	<b>Above Average (2.50 - 3.49)</b>	<b>Outstanding 3.50 - 4.0)</b>
<b>Coursework</b>	0	9	14	3
<b>Thesis</b>	0	2	11	6

## **C. Program Self Review**

### **Faculty Review of Assessment Data**

The Kinesiology graduate faculty meet monthly during the school year as part of the general faculty meeting. Evaluation of the assessment criteria and results are performed annually. The faculty are generally pleased with our Student Learning Outcomes, the assessment tools, and the overall performance of our MS students, and no need to change these procedures were noted.

### **Program Improvements and Future Plans**

Discussion focused on the nature of the written final examination for the students in the coursework option. Previously, the exam consisted of a major section, a minor section and research methods. Desiring to increase the breadth of examination of the student's knowledge and preparation, the format of the final exam has been changed to consist of 4 areas selected from the student's course preparation, and a section on research methods. Future evaluations of graduate SLOs will be based on this examination model.

### **Summary of this Report as it is Posted on your Website**

The MS program in Kinesiology, including the available coursework and degree requirements, has been designed to prepare students for a variety of careers in academia, the allied health sciences, and exercise promotion at the individual to community level. As part of their academic program each student can choose to conduct a research study leading to a thesis, or to expand their knowledge base through coursework. The emphasis in both options is to train students to think critically regarding the scientific literature, including what constitutes sound versus questionable research. In the past 8 years, 81 students graduated with a MS in Kinesiology. Of those, 31 students chose to conduct research and prepare a written thesis for public presentation and submission for publication. All of these students successfully defended their research thesis. Fifty (50) students selected the coursework option, which culminated in a daylong written examination. 49 successfully passed the examination on their first try, while one student required a second attempt to successfully pass.