1) What are the student learning outcomes for your program? If these have been revised over the past year, please describe.

Students will master the scientific method and its strengths as regard asking meaningful, testable questions and for conducting careful laboratory, field, and theoretical investigations.

Students will become knowledgeable of the major themes that serve as the foundations to integrate, organize, and understand informational content in the biological sciences.

Students will gain an appreciation for powerful scientific attitudes that characterize successful scientists and productive members of society.

Student will become facile with mathematical, computational, and modeling skills that empower them to become successful learners, analyzers and discoverers of information and complex data sets they encounter in the biological world.

2) How do you plan to communicate these learning outcomes to students in your program?

The campus catalog, the department webpage, and course syllabi will contain the department’s learning objectives. We will also communicate these objectives to student during summer and winter student orientation sessions.
3) Please identify one or two student learning outcomes that your program will focus on for assessment this year. Briefly describe the rationale for selecting these specific outcomes for investigation this year.

Students will become knowledgeable of the major themes that serve as the foundations to integrate, organize and understand informational content in the biological sciences.

4) What specific assessment activities will you conduct this year in order to measure program student learning in these areas?

We will develop a matrix that monitors how each of the courses we teach addresses the learning outcome we have selected to assess in the coming year.

We will develop three standard questions regarding the learning objective upon which we will focus. All classes will incorporate these questions in one or more exams. These questions will be monitored at the end of each semester.

5) What new or additional resources/support might your program need in order to conduct these assessment activities this year? (Please provide specific information regarding your needs and related costs)

We respectfully request $1500 to defray some expenses connected with evaluating successful achievement of, or at least progress toward, the learning objective we have selected to access in the coming year.