

AY20 GEC Improvement Report: Civic Engagement

BIOLOGY

F19 BIOL 211Labs (L. Marht, coor.)

n = 19

AY19 Recommendation for Improvement: The program should follow through on the suggestion above to address the problem of cursory student performance in civic engagement assignments by adding point values to those assignments. The approach should be reviewed at the program level. The AY20 Gen Ed CE Improvement Plan should report on the results of this effort and provide data on a course where the improvements have been operationalized.

Improvements: We are quite happy with our rubric, the questions we developed and are considering using this assignment as a way of evaluating us (the Biology faculty) who are teaching the BIOL 211 labs.

The few students that scored low did not address the questions or gave very poor one-word responses. This year the Biology Program made the assessment assignment worth some points to their final grade. This, hopefully, encouraged the few students that did not take it seriously, to take the assessment activity seriously.

Program CE Verticality: All Biology students take CHEM 206 lab, which has a Civic Engagement component. Students return to Ladd Marsh during Spring term to perform water chemistry analysis on the ponds they sampled macroinvertebrates in BIOL 211 lab. Ecological concentration students take BIOL 320 (Ornithology) and BIOL 415 (Forest Ecology) which each have a Civic Engagement component. In Ornithology, the students work at the Ladd Marsh Bird Festival assisting children in receiving their Junior Birder Badge. In Forest Ecology, students assess Pileated Woodpecker use of snags at MERA.

Faculty Review: All data has been reviewed by Biology faculty.