
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

GOAL 5 for **Biomedical Sciences**

LEARNING

One UND Strategic Plan Goal 5: *Foster a welcoming, safe, and inclusive campus climate, Goal by 2022, diverse segments (identified in IPEDS) fully participate in improvements in graduation rates and credit hours.*

UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 5: *UND SMHS will foster a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment across all campuses.*

1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

BIMD 220 + BIMD 221 – These courses are certified as essential studies “diversity of human experience” courses. One of the main pillars of the diversity content in these courses centers on “science for everyone” and highlights the contributions of a diverse set of scientists in the field. This helps provide representation for students. There is also a strong language and interactions commitment in the syllabi for these courses, stating that the environment will be a safe space for all students to learn. In addition, the instructor strives for inclusive language at all times, particularly around sensitive A&P topics, like race, gender, sex, etc.

The Department worked with Michelle Montgomery to organize an informal gathering in which students could discuss any/all department environment concerns. In addition, specific orientation week activities are planned for next fall to provide incoming students with resources to help adjust to graduate training in the department at UND. The Department also monitors Fall term enrollment trends by gender and race/ethnicity. The department formed an engagement committee tasked with organizing a variety of events including social throughout the year. The department hosted a retreat as well as supported various activities of the Biomedical Science Graduate Student Association all organized to improve interaction and a culture of inclusivity.

BIMD 220 + BIMD 221 – SELFI

Student exit surveys as well as a general satisfaction surveys were developed for our graduate students.

3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

SELFI and survey results have guided us to implement changes for next academic year particularly with regard to orientation week support and dispersed informal gatherings amongst students and faculty.

4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

The composition of BIMD graduate student enrollment is different from that of the UND campus at-large. This poses special problems in assessing how campus climate impacts our students. We will continue to employ surveys and other data on the health and wellness and campus climate from the perspective of our graduate students. We will seek assistance on developing or identifying such a survey instrument appropriate to STEM graduate students – possibly working with the Graduate School to administer it.

PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL: x On Track;  Delayed; 
Behind