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# UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

## GOAL 2 for **Biomedical Sciences**

### LEARNING

**One UND Strategic Plan Goal 2: Increase undergraduate, graduate, and professional graduation rates.**

**UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: SMHS Units will expand their current systems of student support to ensure continued high graduation rates and improve student satisfaction with the overall quality of their education.**

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

**BIMD518.** This course that was designed to directly prepare our students to successfully complete their comprehensive examination by challenging the students: to (1) to critically evaluate their own research in an effort to clearly define the significance and innovation of their research projects, (2) to begin to develop novel ideas based on their research efforts that have the potential to significantly impact their field of study, and (3) to prepare students to present these ideas orally and in writing in a manner that is both logical and convincing.

**ANAT 204 & PPT 301 to BIMD 220/221.** 220/221 are a combined two semester sequence of human anatomy and physiology courses that were designed to replace the long standing independent ANAT 204 and PPT 301 courses offered from our department. Previously ANAT 204 and PPT 301 have been high DFW rate courses. Although the courses just launched in fall 2020 the first semester of BIMD 220 has reduced this DFW rate to 15%. Additionally, the instructor of record for BIMD 220/221 has worked extensively with student services to offer continued tutoring support for these classes.

**BIMD 301 and BIMD 401.** The DFW rates for these courses is relatively low. This is primarily because about half the final grade is determined by the formative assessments including quizzes, participation in in-class activities, and peer & self-evaluations. Starfish is used to flag students who have early deficiencies. In addition, students must communicate with the instructor if they are to be excused for an in-class activity. Multiple absences will trigger an email inquiry by the instructor to the student. The OSRR is contacted directly for special cases. The goal is to get each student to complete the course.

The undergraduate instructors monitor DFW rates in their courses each semester/year. They fully understand the positive correlation that active learning practices have on student retention and success, and have developed their courses to include literature-based, best practices in active learning.

## 2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

We will continue to monitor these courses for DFW rates and work with student services.

All undergraduate and graduate courses have the opportunity to be evaluated annually by the departmental undergraduate and graduate education committees, respectively.

The instructors utilize internal assessment forms that are completed at the conclusion of each academic year. DFW rates and grade distributions are part of this assessment.

SEFI data is also used for assessment.

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

The annual course evaluation includes review of course syllabus and course objectives, grade outcomes, DFW rates, SEFI evaluations, reflective statements and goals for next year by the instructor, and peer feedback.

The undergraduate assessment forms are reviewed by the other undergraduate instructors and feedback is given for continuous improvement of the courses. Changes are made to new iterations of the course based on this feedback and the student feedback included in the SEFI.

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

Course evaluations inform future changes with the aim of striving for best practices. One significant barrier is the inability to schedule SMHS classrooms on a schedule that is observed by the main campus.

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

*(additional space for text is provided on page 3 if needed)*

**Additional Information on Goal 2 (optional):**

Insert any additional information here.