



**Middle Georgia
State University**

Title.

Middle Georgia State University Administrative Assessment

Instructions. This form is used to collect administrative assessments for each budgeted unit at Middle Georgia State University (academic and nonacademic units). Departments should include a brief mission statement (describing what they do and who they serve), goals the department or unit is working to accomplish (in a 5 year time frame. Your goals and objectives should be reported out individuals, linked to the plan imperatives and strategies, align with the measurable objectives from the previous year , and defined and measurable objectives for the upcoming year. This form should be completed by each budgeted unit no later than the end of July. NOTE: All fields are required, please place NA or O in response field ONLY if the numbered objective is not being utilized, otherwise full responses are required. Provide ALL necessary information requested to the fullest extent possible, such that a peer reviewer is not required to assume any information not provided. Utilize the provided assessment scoring rubric drafting guideline to evaluate your report prior to submission. https://www.mga.edu/institutional-research/docs/IEB_Administrative_Score_Card.pdf

****Please SUBMIT the form within 30 minutes of opening this page. If you wait too long to submit you may lose your work**** In the event that you need to edit your submission, you may contact the Faculty Affairs Manager to secure a custom link to edit and resubmit.

Q1. Submitters Email

dawn.sherry@mga.edu

Q2. Who is the person responsible for this report?

Dawn Sherry

Q3. For which year are you completing this report?

- ☐ FY 23 (July 2022-June 2023)
- ☐ FY 24 (July 2023-June 2024)
- ☒ FY 25 (July 2024-June 2025)

Q4. To which division of the University is your unit assigned?

- ☐ Office of the President
- ☐ Advancement
- ☒ Academic Affairs
- ☐ Fiscal Affairs
- ☐ Enrollment Management
- ☐ Student Affairs

Q5. For which department or area are you reporting? (Ex. Financial Aid, Library, OTR, Athletics, etc)

Department of Natural Sciences

Q6. The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, report the mission statement for your department.

The department of Natural Sciences serves a student body ranging from science and engineering majors to students taking science courses for their core curriculum. Departmental programs prepare students for rigorous post- baccalaureate programs or to enter today's competitive job markets by providing opportunities for students to advance their knowledge through undergraduate research and through experiential learning. The Department of Natural Sciences supports the scholarly atmosphere of the university by promoting faculty research and scholarly activity.

Q7. What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.

1) To increase biology majors engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects; 2) To increase participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium; 3) To review the B.S. Biology curriculum and compare it to the goals and objectives outlined in Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education (NSF 2009); and 4) To increase student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community.

0. Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY25. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY26.

8. Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To increase by 5%, biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences.

9. Objective 1: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

Students in Department of Natural Sciences programs can participate in undergraduate research through two different research pathways. Students can work directly with faculty on specific research projects (i.e., traditional undergraduate research projects) or they can participate in research that is offered through Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). CUREs are defined as re learning experiences in which whole classes of students address a research question or problem with unknown outcomes or solutions that is of interest to external stakeholders. CUREs offer an important way to expand research opportunities to all students in a program and not just those who seek out these opportunities to work directly with faculty. The department measured this objective by counting student enrollment in designated research courses, SCIE 2999 & BIOL 4894. The department chair pulled enrollment data at the end of the semester for most accurate counts. Faculty who requested to offer a CURE-course submitted applications for their work to the STEM IV grant committee. The Committee reviewed and approved these applications. This allowed the department to track CURE courses being offered and the faculty offering them. Because this is a STEM grant, faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics are also welcome to participate. They also submitted applications to offer CUREs in their courses. The remaining data was collected by counting the number of students participating in Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences within the AY year. Enrollment in these courses is pulled by the Chair at the end of the semester for most accurate counts.

10. Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

To increase by 5% biology majors' participation in undergraduate research or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences.

11. Objective 1: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

Target performance level was based on past performance and discussions with peers at other institutions participating in the USG STEM IV grant.

12. Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

FY 2024-25-total number of students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 was 43 (22-FA 24) (21-SP 25); total number of students enrolled in CUREs was 344. The specific CURE courses included CHEM 1212, 2212, BIOL 1001K, 1002K, 2108K, 2260K, 4110K and MATH 1113. (note: FY 2023-24- total number of students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 was 32 (16-FA 23) (16-SP24); total number of students enrolled in CUREs was 99. The specific CURE courses included CHEM 1212, 2212, BIOL 1002K/L, 3211 and MATH 1401.)

13. Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?

- ☐ The department did not meet this objective.
- ☐ The department met this objective.
- ☒ The department exceeded this objective.

14. Objective 1: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

To meet the target, the Department needed to have 34 students enrolled in SCIE 2999 or BIOL 4894 undergraduate research courses. We had 43 students this past year an increase of 35%. Target was exceeded. For enrollment in CURE courses, the target was 104 students. The department tripled the number of students in CUREs with 344 students! Target was exceeded. This past year, faculty in the department of natural sciences offered CUREs in numerous courses across disciplines and for both science majors and non-majors alike. Likewise, more undergraduate research experiences were also offered this year than in the past. The department will continue to encourage faculty to develop and offer engaging undergraduate research opportunities to all students. The Chair will also encourage faculty who are offering these experiences to look towards pedagogical scholarship that they can present or publish as they continue to offer these experiences to students.

15. Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To maintain at the same level as 2024-2025, participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium.

16. Objective 2: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

A count of the number of faculty & student presenters and a count of attendees. The department requests attendees to sign in. The department produces a program for the STEMposium which lists all presenters (see additional information submitted). Past Performance: At the Spring 2024 STEMposium, a total of 33 current MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Student presenters included biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and information technology disciplines. The Spring 2024 STEMposium also brought in 3 alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & information technology disciplines. Fourteen faculty members co-authored scientific poster or oral presentations. Three faculty members who offered CUREs in their classes shared information about their projects with conference attendees. In 2024, there were approximately 47 attendees at the STEMposium. Current Performance At the Spring 2025 STEMposium a total of 32 MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Student presenters included biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and information technology disciplines. The Spring 2025 STEMposium also brought in 4 alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & information technology disciplines. Fifteen faculty members co-authored scientific poster or oral presentations. One faculty member who offered a CURE in their class shared information about their project with conference attendees. Two students presented information about their internship experiences. In 2025, there were approximately 56 attendees.

17. Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

Target performance was to maintain the same level of participation in AY 2024-2025 as in the previous year.

18. Objective 2: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

The target performance level was established based on past performance data.

19. Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

The Department had a 15% increase in student participation in SP 2025 (n=29 in SP 2024; n=33 in SP 2025). There was also a 10% increase in faculty participation from SP 24 (n=14); SP 25 (n=15). The Department had more alumni and faculty members participating in 2024-25 than in the previous year. Although there was one less student presenting than last year, overall the target was met.

20. Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?

- ☐ The department did not meet this objective.
- ☒ The department met this objective.
- ☐ The department exceeded this objective.

21. Objective 2: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

In the upcoming year, faculty and students will continue to be encouraged to present their work at the 2026 STEMposium. This event provides an opportunity for students to showcase their research, receive feedback from peers and faculty and to build their presentation and data analysis skills.

22. Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To grow by 5%, student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community. This will be measured by counting the number of internal and external events hosted or participated in by the Department of Natural Sciences.

23. Objective 3: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

In Fall 2024-Spring 2025, the department hosted or participated in the following external events (total of 12) • Upward Bound Summer STEM Camp, Summer 2025 • Dr. Renat Khatmullin organized a service science event at the Ronald McDonald House in Atlanta GA, Fall 2024. • Dr. Sharon Standridge, Dr. Moe Sisson and Dr. Kim Pickens participated in Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences, Plants and Pollinators Event, Spring 2025 • Departmental faculty hosted Science Olympiad, Spring 2025 • Dr. John Pattillo, Dr. Shauna Mein, Dr. Moe Sisson, Dr. Tyler Achatz, Dr. Otto Schwake, Dr. Pushpa Yadav and Dr. Sumi Himangshu hosted Mary Persons High School, BioBlitz Event, Fall 2025 • Departmental faculty in Cochran participated in Bleckley County Science Night, Fall 2024 • Departmental faculty in Macon volunteered to be Macon Beer Festival table hosts, Fall 2024 • Dr. Tyler Achatz provided a Fish Pathogens and Biodiversity, Training Workshop for Georgia DNR Fisheries staff, Fall 2024 • Dr. Kirby Swenson gave two presentations for the Bleckley county, Roberts Library community • Department of Nat Sciences Faculty participated in two HOSA events hosted by the SOHNS, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 • Dr. Dawn Sherry participated in Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences, Bird Day, June 2025 In Fall 2024-Spring 2025, the department hosted or participated in the following internal events (total of 16): • MGA STEMposium, spring 2025 • Science Club hosted the annual plant sale on the Cochran campus, spring 2025. • The department co-hosted with the local ACS section a SOTL seminar entitled, "Exploring the Diversity of RNA: From Natural Properties to Artificial Nucleic Acid Nanodevices" with Dr. Emil Khisamutdinov from the Ball State University Department of Chemistry. • Departmental faculty hosted two Majors Mixer events for Biology and Engineering majors; one in Cochran and one in Macon. • Professor Kirby Swenson organized and hosted the "Coming to America Panel" held in Cochran. • Dr. Chris Rigsby organized and hosted five Young Physicians Initiative meetings and one workshop throughout the fall and spring semesters. • Dr. Chris Rigsby and Professor Christie Canady also invited Augusta University Dental and Medical School to the Macon and Cochran campuses to meet with MGA biology majors interested in pursuing dental or medical school. • Dr. Larry Camarota hosted three "Star Parties" where the campus community was invited to night sky viewing sessions on the Macon campus. • Dr. Dawn Sherry participated as a panel member in the Center for Career & Leadership Development "Research As Experience: On & Off Campus Opportunities" event in April 2025.

24. Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

To grow by 5% the internal and external departmental engagement events from 2023-24. This would total to 23 events.

25. Objective 3: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

Target performance level is based on past performance data.

26. Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

In 2024-2025, the Department hosted 12 external and 16 internal events for a total of 28 events. This amounted to a 26% increase in events.

27. Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?

- ☐ The department did not meet this objective.
- ☐ The department met this objective.
- ☒ The department exceeded this objective.

28. Objective 3: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

Departmental faculty will continue to be encouraged to continue to participate in community engagement activities and to foster partnerships with outside organizations in order to raise the profile of the Department of Natural Sciences in the community and within the university.

29. Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be

specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.

To document the baseline number of biology majors participating in internships or work-based learning experiences. This will be measured by counting students enrolled in SCIE 4200.

30. Objective 4: Detail specifically how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort, etc)

In the fall of 2024, 2 students and in spring of 2025, 11 students participated in internship experiences. Biology majors worked with Natural Sciences faculty assisting with teaching science labs, learning lab techniques and skills, and working offsite with the Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences or the Georgia DNR.

31. Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)

This past year, the target was to document the number of students participating in internships with the goal of establishing baseline data for future reports. With a total of 13 students participating in internships, this was a successful year for a relatively new science major option.

32. Objective 4: Provide details for your target performance level established (i.e. accreditation requirement, past performance data, peer program review, etc)

Internship courses have only been added to the catalog starting this fall. Therefore, the department had to establish baseline data to begin monitoring performance level of these courses.

33. Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)

Target was to establish baseline data and the department achieved that target at 100%.

34. Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?

☐ The department did not meet this objective.

- ☒ The department met this objective.
- ☐ The department exceeded this objective.

35. Objective 4: Improvement Plans and Evidence of changes based on an analysis of the results: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?

Students are interested in the new opportunities and participated in both off-campus and on-campus internships. Students who participated in internships were invited to discuss their experiences with the attendees of the STEMposium, thus helping to promote these opportunities to new students. The department will continue to promote internships as an opportunity for students to learn in the workplace and to build relevant skills and experience for the workforce or post-baccalaureate programs.

36. Based on your goals and objectives listed above please indicate their connection with MGA's Strategic Plan (https://www.mga.edu/about/strategic-plan/docs/Strategic_Plan_2023-2028.pdf) by checking all associated and relevant Strategies from the list below. (Check all the apply)

- ☒ Champion Student Success 1. Demonstrate standards of excellence in all academic programs
- ☒ Champion Student Success 2. Grow student engagement at all degree levels
- ☐ Champion Student Success 3. Expand enrollment and graduation
- ☒ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 4. Ensure high-demand programs for workforce and career alignment
- ☐ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 5. Use Center for Middle Georgia Studies to drive University outreach
- ☒ Lead Innovation and Economic Opportunity 6. Coordinate faculty scholarship and grant awards to build University reputation
- ☒ Build Culture and Identity 7. Plan, resource, and promote campus roles and identities
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 8. Pursue great-place/college -to-work designation
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 9. Promote culture of wellness throughout the MGA community
- ☐ Build Culture and Identity 10. Compete and win at the NCAA Division II level
- ☐ Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 11. Apply data-driven accountability to all operations
- ☐ Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 12. Maintain access, affordability and value for all students
- ☐ Sustain Fiscal Resilience and Brand Value 13. Grow and diversity streams of revenue

37. Please indicate which of the following actions you took as a result of the 2023/2024 Assessment Cycle (**prior cycle**) (Note: These actions are documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area)(Check all the apply)

- ☐ Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate Members of the Campus Community
- ☐ Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate External Stakeholders
- ☐ Faculty or Staff Support: Professional Development Activities, Trainings, Workshops, Technical Assistance
- ☒ Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc Operational Processes
- ☐ Request for Additional Financial or Human Resources
- ☐ Customer Service Changes: Communication, Services, etc
- ☒ Making Improvements to Teaching Approach, Course Design, Curriculum, Scheduling, other

☐ Evaluating and/or Revising the Reporting Lines Internal Assessment Processes

☐ Other

38. Please indicate which of the following actions you will take as a result of the 2024/2025 Assessment Cycle (**current cycle**) (Note: These actions must be documented in reports, memos, emails, meeting minutes, or other directives within the reporting area)(Check all the apply)

☐ Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate Members of the Campus Community

☐ Disseminating/Discussing Assessment Results/Feedback to Appropriate External Stakeholders

☒ Faculty or Staff Support: Professional Development Activities, Trainings, Workshops, Technical Assistance

☐ Process Changes: Improve, Expand, Refine, Enhance, Discontinue, etc Operational Processes

☐ Request for Additional Financial or Human Resources

☐ Customer Service Changes: Communication, Services, etc

☒ Making Improvements to Teaching Approach, Course Design, Curriculum, Scheduling, other

☐ Evaluating and/or Revising the Reporting Lines Internal Assessment Processes

☐ Other

39. Please provide a **comprehensive narrative** outlining how assessment results are utilized for continuous improvement in this field. Your narrative **should be of sufficient length and detail** to address the past, present, and future aspects of assessment, with specific emphasis on how these results inform decision-making and drive improvement efforts.

Administrative Unit assessment results provide an opportunity for Departments to reflect on whether or not the objectives that have been set in the previous year have been met. If objectives have not been met, the assessment process allows for an examination of obstacles as well as an opportunity to seek solutions for those obstacles. Conversely, if objectives have been met, they offer an opportunity to celebrate milestones accomplished and to set new goals or objectives for the future. The goals that the Department of Natural Sciences has been working towards are as follows: 1) to increase by 5%, biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences; 2) to maintain at the same level as 2023-2024, participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium; 3) to grow by 5%, student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community. This will be measured by counting the number of internal and external events hosted or participated in by the Department of Natural Sciences; 4) to document the baseline number of biology majors participating in internships or work-based learning experiences. This will be measured by counting students enrolled in SCIE 4200. Past The Department of Natural Sciences has been participating in the USG STEM grant work for over eight years now. These grant monies have provided important financial support to allow the Department to fully participate in the goals and objectives of MGA's Strategic Plan. A longstanding goal of the department has been to increase biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects. Over the years, we have done this using both the traditional "apprenticeship" style research projects, wherein, students work individually with faculty on specific research projects. Several years ago, we expanded opportunities to all students by encouraging faculty to offer Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) in their classes. In the past several years, the Department has consistently exceeded its targets related to increasing participation in undergraduate research projects and CUREs. The focus on creating undergraduate research opportunities has led to an increase in departmental faculty scholarship, both in areas of traditional research and in the scholarship of teaching. Building the scholarship aspect and accumulating important research equipment and lab space, has helped the department to recruit new faculty who are pursuing scholarship and overseeing undergraduate research projects. We also asked faculty who were offering CUREs or internships to share their work with colleagues at the STEMposium. This allowed them to both highlight their work and to encourage other faculty to incorporate CUREs in their courses or to offer internships over the next year. Faculty feel that it is important to engage both with the University community and the external community. Engaging with the University community helps to build a shared culture and to keep students engaged no matter where their campus is. Interacting with the surrounding community helps to raise the public image and awareness of the Department of Natural Sciences at MGA. It is important to establish a positive reputation in the community to support recruitment efforts to our programs. To that end, we have built partnerships with GA DNR, the Macon Museum of Sciences and other outside organizations. Current • The Department continues to focus on creating opportunities for undergraduate research. This year's objective was to increase by 5%, biology majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences. With increases exceeding targets in both undergraduate research and CUREs, the department exceeded targets. Of particular note was the significant increase in number of students participating in CUREs this past year (from 104 students in 2023/24 to 344 in 2024/25) an 200% increase. This is due to the number of faculty offering these opportunities and the size of the classes in which they are offered. Involving non-majors in Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) provides them an opportunity to engage with their science labs in a more extensive way than traditional labs. It has even resulted in several students changing their major. The Department will continue to encourage faculty to offer these experiences and to consider pursuing pedagogical research related to these offerings (in addition to the traditional research they may already be pursuing). • The second objective was to maintain at the same level as 2024, participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium. At the Spring 2025 STEMposium a total of 32 MGA students presented either oral presentations or scientific posters. Student presenters included biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and information technology disciplines. The Spring 2025 STEMposium also brought in 4 alumni plenary speakers from Science, Math & information technology disciplines. Fifteen faculty members co-authored scientific poster or oral presentations. One faculty member, who offered a CURE in their class, shared information about their project with conference attendees. Two students presented information about their internship experiences. In 2025, there were approximately 56 attendees. The Department had a 15% increase in student participation in SP 2025 (n=29 in SP 2024; n=33 in SP 2025). There was also a 10% increase in faculty participation from SP 24 (n=14); SP 25 (n=15). The department had more alumni and faculty members participating in 2024-25 than in the previous year. Although there was one less student presenting than last year, overall the target was met. • The third objective focused on engagement both within the University community and outside the University in the surrounding communities. In 2024-2025, the Department hosted 12 external and 16 internal events for a total of 28 events. This amounted to a 26% increase in events, exceeding the target of increasing by 5% over last year's events. Internal events focused on welcoming science majors to the department and answering questions. Other events focused on bringing in recruiters for medical and dental programs and providing our students with opportunities to meet with Mercer Medical Students to discuss medical school questions and applications. The department also hosted Star Watch parties for the campus community. External events focused on science education in the community (e.g., Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences or Roberts Library in Cochran events) or offered workshops. The largest event hosted by the Department is the Science Olympiad, which brings high school students to campus to compete in science and engineering events. • The last objective was to document the baseline number of biology majors participating in internships or work-based learning experiences as counted by the number of students enrolled in SCIE 4200. In the fall of 2024, 2 students and in spring of 2025, 11 students participated in internship experiences. Biology majors worked with Natural Sciences faculty assisting with teaching science labs, learning lab techniques and skills, and working offsite with the Macon Museum of Arts & Sciences or the Georgia DNR. This information will be used for establishing next year's goals. Future The Department of Natural Sciences will continue to strive towards the following goals: 1) To increase biology and engineering majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects or Course-Related Undergraduate Research Experiences; 2) To grow student and faculty engagement both within the department/ institution and externally in the community; 3) To offer work-based learning/internship opportunities to Biology majors. With the support of Dean Underwood and Provost Jenks, the department will also have the opportunity to participate in the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education (PULSE) recognition program. This program provides departments to assess their life sciences education programs in accordance with the recommendations of NSF's Vision and Change Report (2011). In addition to assessing our program internally, two PULSE Fellows will provide feedback on departmental strengths and opportunities for improvement. Brewer, Carol & Smith, Diane. (2011). Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education: A Call to Action.

40. Please indicate (if appropriate) any local, state, or national initiatives (academic or otherwise) that are influential in the operations, or goals, and objectives of your unit. (Complete College Georgia, USG High Impact Practice Initiative, LEAP, USG Momentum Year, Low-Cost No-Cost Books, etc)

The USG STEM Initiative and the High Impact Practice Initiatives are influential in the operations, goals and objectives of the Department of Natural Sciences. We will also be using the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education (PULSE) rubrics to evaluate the Biology program.

41. Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples. 1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.

1) The Department of Natural Sciences will maintain at existing levels, biology and engineering majors' engagement through participation in undergraduate research projects. 2) The Department Natural Sciences will maintain at the same level in 2025, the participation by faculty and students in the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium. 3) The Department of Natural Sciences will increase engagement by 5% with internal and external community members in the upcoming year. 4) The Department of Natural Sciences will participate in the PULSE recognition program and as part of this work, faculty will complete rubrics in the areas of Curriculum; Assessment, Faculty Practice/Faculty Support, Infrastructure and Climate for Change. Faculty will host external reviewers and receive feedback on the program.

42. Optional Mindset Update (Academic Deans ONLY) Please provide an update on the implementation of your school based mindset plan/strategy. Include any adjustments to metrics for the FY24 as well as outcomes associated with your appraisal of your schools activities.

43. Did you use any of the following resources to support your data collection, analysis, and planning efforts? Please check all that apply and/or list any others you utilized:

- ☐ MGA Dashboards
- ☐ USG Dashboards
- ☒ MGA Institutional Reports
- ☐ USG System-Level Reports
- ☐ MGA Internal Surveys
- ☐ USG-Administered Surveys
- ☐ Academic Program Reviews
- ☒ Strategic Planning Documents (MGA and/or USG)
- ☐ Enrollment Reports (term-over-term, year-over-year)
- ☐ Retention/Graduation/Success Rate Reprots
- ☐ Budget or Financial Reports
- ☐ Assessment Reports of Institutional Effectiveness Documents
- ☐ Faculty/Staff Workload Data
- ☐ Peer Institution Comparisons or Benchmarking Reports
- ☐ External Accreditor Data or Standards
- ☐ National or State Data Sets (IPEDS, NCES, Georgia Data System, etc.)
- ☐ Custom Data Requests (OIRDS or other offices)
- ☐ Other (please specify):

44. Optional: The following upload portal is available to supplement your report with supportive documentation should you wish to provide any (instruments, data, etc).

[DeptNatSci_SupprtingMaterial_24-25.pdf](#)

2.3MB

application/pdf