

Notes from the Life Sciences Carl Wieman Science Education Initiative

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The Survey of Chemistry Concepts in Biology.

Jared has completed his initial investigation of what chemistry is taught in Biology courses and where. He started by examining the chemistry content of the core courses for the Cell Biology and Genetics degree stream at UBC. Course notes for each class were collected and analyzed for any chemistry topics that were mentioned or appeared to be required for understanding the biology concepts presented. When possible, instructors for each class were interviewed. Once the overall list of relevant chemistry topics was compiled from the core biology and biochemistry course a survey was developed and circulated to all instructors in Biology (you might remember this from earlier in the term). In addition Jared surveyed the instructors for the core chemistry courses taken by Biology students to determine where students encounter the concepts used in Biology.

The report is available from us. It will be posted on the Life Sciences CWSEI website.

Assessing Student Satisfaction with Academic and Skill Development in the UBC Biology Program: An addition to curriculum development

Harald and Gülnur have drafted an interim report of their investigation of student attitudes towards the Biology Program. The goal of this project is to investigate which of the curriculum activities in the UBC biology program students consider effective and worthwhile for their career development and general education and how this information and additional feedback from the professional world can help the curriculum development process. The initial stage of this project has been to collect data from interviews with 33 4th year students. These interviews were open ended with the intention of identifying "themes", that is topics that students frequently comment on without being explicitly asked (both positive and negative comments were considered for theme identification). The next stage of the project is to design a survey based on the themes that we will distribute more broadly to 4th year students next term. Harald and Gülnur also looked at published survey material on what biology students do after graduation that has been collected by Canadian and BC universities, and have begun to interview potential employers of biology graduates. This is a project that is very much in progress and so your feedback on the results and suggestions is very valuable. Please have a look at the attached draft and send us your suggestions. Thanks!

We're around.

If you're interested in talking to us about your course(s), or teaching /learning, feel free to contact anyone of your LS-CWSEI team: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@zoology.ubc.ca, Harald Yurk <yurk@zoology.ubc.ca>, Gulnur Birol <Birol@science.ubc.ca>, George Spiegelman <spie@interchange.ubc.ca>. You might also check out the CWSEI website for information and resources about teaching/learning: <http://www.cwsei.ubc.ca>.