

**Name of Program:** Natural Science

### **Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Natural Science distills and embodies the mission of Peru State College. Our mission is to cultivate the scientific, analytical, and intellectual capacity of our students by directly fostering and mentoring independent inquiry, knowledge, and discovery in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences. We pursue this mission through rigorous instruction, personal attention, and an aggressive undergraduate-based research program.

Our institutional role is to provide comprehensive and general studies course work in the physical and life sciences including specialized courses of study leading to baccalaureate (BS/BA) degrees and teaching endorsements in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, natural science, and physical science. We provide the scientific and intellectual foundation for advanced training in science, veterinary medicine, and the human health professions.

### **Program Goals**

Our ultimate goal is to establish a national reputation of academic excellence and leadership in undergraduate preparation for professional and graduate study, undergraduate research opportunity, and faculty development. Proximate departmental goals are divided into two groups that reflect our dual responsibilities for pedagogy and public stewardship.

#### **Pedagogical Goals**

1. Maintain and expand our unique experiential mentored approach to undergraduate science by integrating faculty professional development as a pivotal element of the teaching environment.
2. Instill in our students the six hallmarks of a general liberal education:
  - A. effective communication;
  - B. computer literacy;
  - C. independent critical thought;
  - D. intellectual capacity for change;
  - E. preparation to assume social and civic leadership roles; and,
  - F. the ability to pursue intellectually, ethically, aesthetically, and physically rewarding lives.
3. Produce Natural Science graduates who demonstrate the following:
  - A. baccalaureate-level mastery of scientific vocabulary and concepts appropriate to their major discipline of study;
  - B. the ability to utilize the scientific method in problem solving;
  - C. the ability to critically evaluate scientific ideas and data and incorporate new information in a synthetic context; and,
  - D. an ability and proclivity for life-long learning.

#### **Public Stewardship Goals**

1. Acquire faculty and infrastructure sufficient to maintain a 4-year timeline for all degree-seeking majors.
2. Produce at least 12 graduates each academic year. Increase graduate production to maintain current efficiency as additional faculty and resources are allocated.
3. Maintain overall advancement rates above 50%.
4. Secure resources appropriate to provide significant opportunity for student research and faculty development.