1. **Program Overview**

   The biology major at UC Blue Ash College provides the first two years of an anticipated baccalaureate program following transfer to an accredited college or university. While most students elect to continue their education with UC McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, the program is designed to articulate with other universities as well. Students completing the program of study in biology are eligible for an associate of science degree. Degree completion, however, is not required for successful transfer to a baccalaureate program.

   Students in the biology program complete course work designed to provide a broad foundation in science and math as preparation for more specialized course work following transfer. Freshman-level courses include biology, chemistry, statistics, and calculus. Sophomore-level courses provide a more in-depth exploration of pertinent science concepts in cellular biology, genetics, evolution, ecology, and organic chemistry. The program balances instruction, discussion, and laboratory experience to provide interested students a balanced preparation.

2. **Program Outcomes**

   - Explain the structure, function, fundamental processes, evolution, diversity, and ecological interactions at all levels of biological organization
   - Read, understand, critically review, and properly cite various types of scientific information including primary research articles and mass media sources
   - Collect, organize, analyze, and interpret quantitative and qualitative data
   - Express ideas clearly, logically, and persuasively in oral and written formats

3. **Curriculum/Program Map**

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<tr>
<th>University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash College</th>
<th>Biol 1081</th>
<th>Biol 1081L</th>
<th>Biol 1082</th>
<th>Biol 1082L</th>
<th>Biol 2081C</th>
<th>Biol 2082C</th>
<th>INTR 1020</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Learning Outcome</strong></td>
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4. **Methods/Measures**

Program learning outcomes are introduced and developed in the freshman level courses where formative assessment takes place. The biology department is reporting on the summative assessment of the following program learning outcomes which takes place in the sophomore level courses:

Program learning outcomes being assessed:

- Read, understand, critically review, and properly cite various types of scientific information including primary research articles and mass media sources.
- Express ideas clearly, logically, and persuasively in oral and written formats.

Assessment of the above program learning outcomes will be done in BIOL2081C with a student project that involves an independent investigation of a gene. The project will have both an oral and poster presentation component. Assessment of both learning outcomes will be done with a primary trait analysis (PTA) scale. During the 2013-2014 academic year, faculty teaching the course will develop a common PTA scale that each faculty member will use to assess their students’ performance.

- Collect, organize, analyze, and interpret quantitative and qualitative data.
- Express ideas clearly, logically, and persuasively in oral and written formats.

Assessment of the above program learning outcomes will be done in BIOL2082C with a field project in which students investigate ecological interactions. The project will have both an oral and poster presentation component. Assessment of both learning outcomes will be done with a primary trait analysis (PTA) scale. During the 2013-2014 academic year, faculty teaching the course will develop a common PTA scale that each faculty member will use to assess their students’ performance.

5. **Assessment Infrastructure**

Data will be collected by biology faculty members teaching BIOL2081C and BIOL2082C. The projects being assessed occur in the last few weeks of the semester for each course; therefore, the timeline for assessment will be at the end of each course. At the end of each academic year, an annual report summarizing student performance will be produced by the academic assessment representative in conjunction with the faculty members teaching the courses and the program coordinator. This annual report will be shared with the biology department at either the last department meeting of the academic year or the first meeting of the subsequent year, depending on the time. The report will also be shared with the college Academic Assessment committee.

6. **Findings**

No data have been collected at this point; therefore there are no findings to report as of the end of the 2012-2013 academic year. Initial data will be collected during the 2013-2014 academic year.
7. **Use of Findings**

The annual assessment report will be shared with members of the biology department as well as the college Academic Assessment committee. Faculty in the program will meet annually to discuss the students' performance, planning changes in pedagogical approach and or curriculum as necessary.