

LEAP Action Summary

Chemistry - 2011

LEAP Workshop Year: 2011

For more information, contact:
Paul House

Action Dates: 2011-2012

LEAP Team

Steve Anderson
John Ejnik
Baocheng Han
Paul House
Hepsi Kumpaty

faculty, chemistry
faculty, chemistry
faculty, chemistry
faculty, chemistry
faculty, chemistry

General Goal:

The goal of this LEAP team was to increase the understanding of the chemistry department and students in chemistry courses on the motivation of the LEAP initiative and how it is important to chemistry education.

One specific part of this was to make the department and students more aware of high impact practices taking place at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and outside the university that are appropriate for chemistry students.

Planned Actions:

1. Describe and promote LEAP in classes
2. Evaluate how high impact educational practices (HIPs) and the LEAP essential learning outcomes (ELOs) are being addressed in the chemistry department
3. Increase the department's focus on collection of assessment data
4. Update the department's senior exit survey
5. Conduct a survey of employers who have hired UW-Whitewater graduates recently
6. Put together an external advisory board for independent departmental assessment

Deliverables, Completed Actions:

1. LEAP is discussed in CHEM 184: Introduction to Chemistry. This course is taken by all chemistry majors as an introduction to the major.
2. The chemistry department has discussed HIPs and the LEAP ELOs. Undergraduate research is a strong focus of the department and an important HIP. Besides undergraduate research, our students are active participants in other HIP activities (course/program based) such as on-campus employment, collaborative assignments and projects, internships and the Honors program.
3. Assessment data collected from standardized tests, like those put out by the ACS, has become important for the department. These data is regularly collected from all courses that administer these exams.

4. The senior exit survey was revised and has been an informative source of information.
5. A survey of employers who had hired UW-Whitewater chemistry graduates recently was conducted in 2011.
6. An external advisory board of UW-Whitewater graduates working in industry was formed in 2012. The group has meet three times, approximately every 18 months. The input form this group has been very helpful.

Notes: