**Biological Sciences Department**

**Rubric for Assessing MS Biology Program (Non - Thesis)**

Name of MS Candidate:\_\_\_\_Ms. Traci Pantuso\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Evaluator:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Joseph P. Caruso, PhD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Immunology\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_Hard Copy signed 17 July\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | Description of Item Assessed | \*Score 1-5 (where 5 is best) |
|  | Current Knowledge on Key concepts | 3.5 |
|  | Data interpretation and analysis | 4 |
|  | Communication skill (written and oral) | 4 |
|  | TOTAL | 3.83 |

\* A graduate advisory committee composed of three to four experts in the student’s chosen field is established by the main advisor with in-put from the candidate. The committee members meet and or communicate regularly on the candidate’s plan of study and overall progress toward achieving the program goals. The main advisor will keep the departmental graduate committee and the learning assessment committee up-dated on student’s performance as well as measures taken to address any short-comings annually.

c) Assessment Plan

Faculty who teach the recommended courses will evaluate student’s learning in their field using various instruments as they deem appropriate. Assigned grade of A, B, C, D or F reflects the degree of mastery of that subject’s goals. In addition, the student will be given EXIT exams by three members of the advisory committee. These exams will include questions on current knowledge of chosen field, short essay questions to test written communication, data interpretation and analytical skills.

d) Criterion for success

Program will be deemed successful when at least 75% of graduates score at least B (80%) in courses prescribed by the graduate thesis committee and an average of B or better in exit exams. Sample grading rubric follows.

RECOMMENDATIONS