**1.) What are the strengths of your department?**

Prepare students for post graduate schooling, programs, employment. High employment rate and acceptance rate to programs.

Provide a variety of courses in biology field – human, micro, environmental. Breadth.

Teaching approach – develop close relationships with students. Teaching takes place also outside of the classroom.

Devote a lot of time, energy, and 6ts to the intro courses – made a decision not to have a 400 person Intro bio but to have lots of 35 person sections. Helps us get more students.

Time we spend with them in lab is also a significant investment – faculty with students in the lab, contributes to getting to know the students better, gives students hands on experience, makes content more real.

Labs are well equipped and adequately supplied – always getting more microscopes and such.

Students are pleased with the quality of teaching – in some cases ecstatic. We definitely have some stellar teachers on the faculty.

Graduates contact the department and say they would like to offer employment and research opportunities to current students.

2.) **What do you wish you could do better, or do more of?**

Mentor students in a research setting – we already do, but would like to do more. Demand from students is high, we can’t begin to satisfy that.

We are good at advising students about professional school and graduate school, not great at advising them for careers outside of health care.

Connect students more to the outside world, would help with advising into non-professional tracks – service learning, internships, experiential learning.

3.) **Leaving aside discipline specific knowledge, in what ways does your department/program best contribute to providing our students with a liberal education for their lives beyond college, as informed and engaged citizens, productive employees, ethical beings, etc.?**

Practice in evidence-based decision making.

New learning goal to integrate science and society in upper division – aspirational goal, being done in some classes.

Rigor of many of our courses is helpful in training productive employees, ensuring future success. The level of detail that they are expected to know in helpful. They also have to be able to connect information through the end of the semester. More time commitment in the labs. There is the expectation that you can apply it and critique it, not just information that you memorize.

Collaborate with peers – lab work especially – good experience for future work situations.

4.) **Are there ways in which you would like to see your department/program contribute to liberal education that so far it has not been able to?**

Would love it if our department could work with other departments to teach courses like Communication in the Sciences, Science and Public Policy, or the history of a specific science.

Would love to see us work better with other science faculty. Opportunities for co-teaching.

Better apply quantitative methods into our own classes. Majors are required to take chemistry, but it’s not clear how much they use that or math in their upper level courses. Applied inter-disciplinarity.

Expand on student exposure to real research – not only in summer programs but in courses – inquiry driven research.

Would like more time to do our own research – serve as models, have active research programs in which students can participate. Research programs go dormant in the summer.