

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

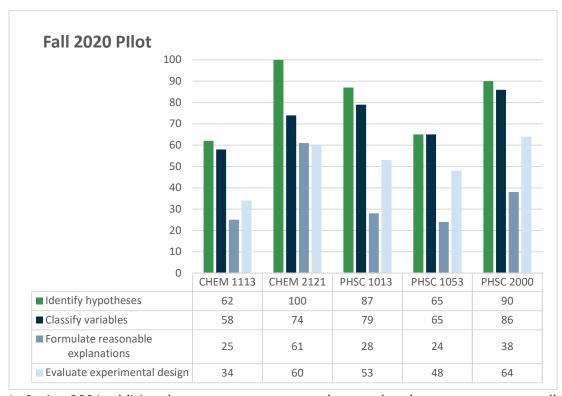
106 West O Street Rothwell Hall, Room 454 Russellville, AR 72801

479-880-4278

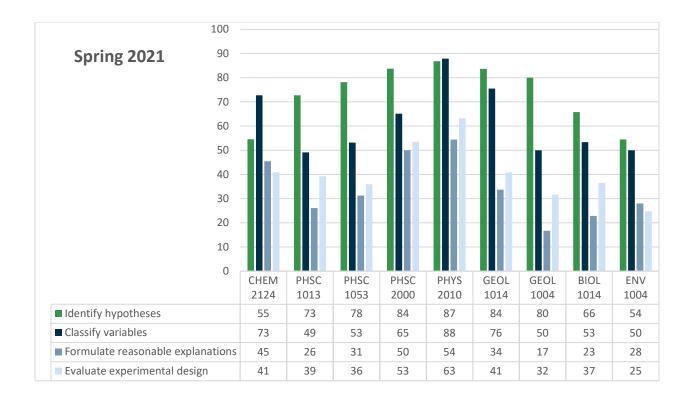
January 6, 2022

General Education Goal: SCIENTIFIC REASONING

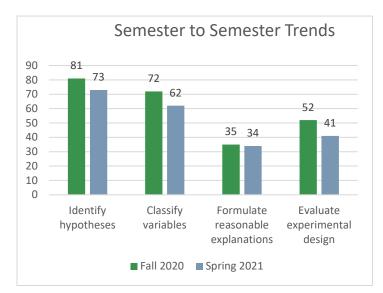
In Fall of 2020 a new exam capturing dimensions of the scientific method was deployed to a small number of courses in the College of Natural & Health Sciences that were approved for the Scientific Reasoning general education goal. Four dimensions of the scientific method were assessed. The following results are from the pilot study.



In Spring 2021 additional courses were requested to employ the assessment, as well as adding in a previous assessment tool that captures the same dimensions of the scientific method.



The final table compares scores on the dimensions of the scientific method by year, aggregating all course scores.



This data shows that while there has been slippage in achievement from the Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 administrations (likely attributed to pandemic related issues) the ability a) to formulate reasonable explanations and b) to evaluate experimental design are lagging across the board.

If you have questions, please contact:

Dr. Erin Clair, director of General Education or Dr. Christine Austin, director of Assessment