

# Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods



## Program (AG) - AGECON - Agribusiness (BSAG) - 263

**Program Mission Statement:** The Agricultural Economics Department will discover, develop, disseminate, and preserve knowledge needed to enhance quality of life and foster rural development. The Agricultural Economics Department will have programs of state, national, and international eminence in teaching, research, and extension that capitalize on our unique ability to integrate the physical, social, and management sciences for effective problem solving and decision making in agricultural industries and rural economies. The specific goals related to university instruction are: maintain high standards of excellence in instruction, research, and extension/outreach; and recruit, retain, and graduate students in a collegial environment that encourages excellence, prepares them for careers, enriches their personal growth, fosters their discovery of knowledge, and promotes leadership.

### Program Information

*2019 - 2020*

#### Program Information

**Assessment Coordinator's Name:** Cheryl DeVuyst

**Assessment Coordinator's E-mail Address:** cheryl.devuyst@okstate.edu

**Number of Students Enrolled in the Program:** 533

**Total Number of Students Graduated:** 157

**Number of Student Graduates from Stillwater Campus:** 157

**Number of Student Graduates from Tulsa Campus:**

**Were university assessment funds used by the department/program for assessment activities?:** No

**If yes, describe how funds were used and the contribution the funds had on the assessment process:**

### Annual Executive Summaries

*2019 - 2020*

**Program Assessment Coordinator:** Cheryl DeVuyst

#### Plan Review and Approval

**Date Current Plan Was Reviewed and Approved:** 09/18/2020

**Date of Future Plan Review and Approval:** 09/18/2020

#### Summary of Assessment Findings

**Describe overall assessment findings and faculty members' interpretation of the assessment results:** Students are performing at an acceptable level of proficiency. The graduating seniors exhibit a high level of proficiency in the capstone area course and related industry project that fits with their career goals. While many graduates are highly satisfied with their experience and preparation upon graduation, the department does not rank as high as we would like. It is an area to evaluate further for improvement.

#### Dissemination of Findings

**Describe the individual(s) or committee responsible for reviewing and interpreting assessment data:** Dr. Cheryl DeVuyst is completing a term as the Outcomes Assessment Coordinator. Assessment is a part of the responsibility of the Curriculum and Assessment Committee that is co-chaired by Dr. Rodney Jones and Dr. Wade Brorsen. Dr. DeVuyst is currently department head and will pass the role of assessment coordinator to a different faculty member.

**Describe the process for sharing and discussing assessment findings with program faculty:** Reports are shared with faculty on a regular basis. Faculty contribute to student outcomes assessment through project and course work. Normally outcomes assessment is discussed at the annual department planning session but this summer the session was not held due to COVID restrictions.

#### Program Improvements Based on Assessment

**Based on data collected this year, what changes are being considered or planned for the program?:** Further collaboration of additional faculty members for course assignment and project assessment.

**Based on this year's findings, what (if any) changes are planned for the assessment process?:** Changing to a new assessment coordinator and additional assistance by staff.

**Describe the process for implementing these changes/planned program improvements:** Department head will assign new assessment coordinator, assign staff assistance and provide training. Faculty will continue to meet to collaborate on roles for project and assignment assessment roles.

**Program Improvements Made in the Last Year:** Assessment Measure Improvements, Revised Outcomes, Revised Assessment Plan, Improved Faculty Understanding or Buy-In

**"Other" Improvements:**

**Goals for the Coming Year:** We will continue to evaluate the same learning outcomes. Goal to increase student satisfaction, exit interviews and surveys completion. Planning further training of faculty and instructors in virtual course technology and testing methods to improve experience and overall learning for students.

**Is this Summary Report Complete?:** Yes

**List all individuals associated with this report preparation:** Cheryl DeVuyst

## Outcome: Oral and Written Communication Mastery

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in written and oral forms economic concepts, methods and analysis.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Year:** 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

**Start Date:**

**Archived Date:**

**Outcome Type:** Skills

**Reason for Archival:**

### Assessment Methods

**Analysis of Written Artifacts** - We will evaluate random samples of selected oral and written assignments from 3000/4000 level courses using a basic rubric developed to evaluate the student's ability to communicate effectively. The samples will include only agricultural economics and agribusiness students. An independent editor evaluates student writing relative to a rubric. In the case of oral presentations, the department enlists other faculty or industry professionals to evaluate oral communication skills relative to a rubric. (Active)

**\* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** At least 70% of students will meet expectations.

**Timeline for Assessment:**

**Other Assessment Type:**

## Outcome: Student Satisfaction

Graduates will express satisfaction with their experience as a Department of Agricultural Economics undergraduates.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Year:** 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

**Start Date:**

**Archived Date:**

**Outcome Type:** Disposition

**Reason for Archival:**

### Assessment Methods

**Survey** - Each graduate must participate in an exit interview with the Department Head or a designated replacement. Each student completes a survey about his or her experiences as a major in the department. (Active)

**\* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** At least 70% are satisfied or very satisfied with the program and experience.

**Timeline for Assessment:** every year

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Other Assessment Type:

## Outcome: Senior Business Concept Mastery

Graduates will utilize knowledge gained from fundamental finance, management, marketing, legal and natural resource concepts to solve agribusiness problems and identify business opportunities.

**Outcome Status:** Active

**Planned Assessment Year:** 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

**Start Date:**

**Archived Date:**

**Outcome Type:** Knowledge

**Reason for Archival:**

## Assessment Methods

**Capstone Assignment** - While we do not have one specific senior-level capstone course, students are allowed to choose a capstone senior-level courses that demonstrate mastery of knowledge and ability to solve problems in a specific subject area through concept evaluation and projects. Various courses will be used in different years to assess student learning in different subject areas. Possible courses include Advanced Agribusiness Management, Advanced Farm Management, Commodity Marketing, American Agricultural Policy, etc. All seniors in the specific class chosen are evaluated on performance of applying knowledge gained from fundamental finance, management, marketing, legal and natural resource concepts to problems. Usually includes directed projects and other assignments. Several faculty are involved with overall evaluation. Performance was measured on a 4 – Exceptional performance; 3 – High performance; 2 – Adequate performance; 1- Inadequate performance. (Active)

\* **Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** At least 70% of graduates will achieve (4) exceptional or (3) high levels of performance.

**Timeline for Assessment:** Annually but capstone experience course will change in various years.

**Other Assessment Type:**