

Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods



Program (AG) - AGECON - Agricultural Economics (MS) - 005

Program Mission Statement: Mission: 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: 19

Total Number of Students Graduated: 10

Number of Student Graduates from Stillwater Campus: 10

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: Dr. Cheryl S. 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: Assessment results reveal that students continue to perform at a rate expect by the faculty. At this time, we do not see the need to make any curriculum changes or change in the way Master's students are advised.

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?: No changes are planned for the M.S. or M of Ag. Programs. A math readiness camp has been added to assist entering students with quantitative skills and

we see improvement in student performance from that math camp.

Based on this year's findings, what (if any) changes are planned for the assessment process?: No program changes planned. 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

"Other" Improvements: Project evaluation in the core math programming course brought evaluation of MS students' abilities to synthesize concepts and theories learned in other courses. This project assists with the research process for the thesis or creative component.

Goals for the Coming Year: We will continue to evaluate same learning outcomes. Goal to complete all exit interviews and surveys (even if we are not able to meet in person).

Is this Summary Report Complete?: Yes

List all individuals associated with this report preparation: Cheryl DeVuyst

Outcome: Mastery of economic concepts and tools

Graduates will be able to use the concepts and tools of the agricultural economist to analyze and to develop solutions to agricultural and natural resources issues and problems.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

Start Date:

Archived Date:

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Reason for Archival:

Assessment Methods

Course Project - The Department has a core course that requires students to combine economic theory, statistical methods and mathematical programming into a final project. The project builds upon their knowledge base and requires the ability to move into evaluating real problems in agricultural and resource economics. Many times this project leads into the student's thesis and final research project. Several faculty assist with evaluation of projects. The project final evaluation will be rated as a 4 - exceptional performance; 3 - high performance; 2 - adequate performance; 1 - inadequate performance. (Active)

*** Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** At least 70% of the students will score at (4) or (3) level for the project.

Timeline for Assessment: Each year in conjunction with advice from major professor.

Other Assessment Type:

Outcome: Communication

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

Rating of Skills - Each M.S. or M.Ag. graduate must complete a thesis or creative component. We have developed a rubric to rate the student's written communication skills shown while completing the thesis/creative component. The student's committee members may use the rubric to score the student. Each M.S. student must complete a final oral exam. We have developed a rubric to rate the

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student's oral communication skills during the final oral exam that people attending the exams may use to score the student. (Active)

*** Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** Students will receive at least 80% favorable reviews of oral presentation skills based upon final oral exam.

Timeline for Assessment: It is the student's committee chair's responsibility to provide the written rubric to the committee and oral rubric to the attendees of the oral.

Other Assessment Type: Analysis of written artifacts, Review of thesis/dissertations/creative component.

Outcome: Student Satisfaction

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

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

Start Date:

Archived Date:

Outcome Type: Disposition

Reason for Archival:

Assessment Methods

Survey - Each student will complete an exit interview in the semester of graduation or the semester before graduation. Surveys follow with the interview and evaluate specific areas of the program. (Active)

*** Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** At least 70% satisfaction rate with program experience.

Timeline for Assessment: Each semester

Other Assessment Type: