

Program Plan and Findings: Four Column Layout



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

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings (Actions)</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>Outcome Status: Active</p> <p>Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021</p> <p>Start Date:</p> <p>Archived Date:</p> <p>Outcome Type: Knowledge</p> <p>Reason for Archival:</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020</p> <p>Conclusion: 3 - Meets Program Expectations (Proficient)</p> <p>All students scored at least a (3) on the project scale representing a high level of performance. Only two students ranked as exceptional performance. (09/15/2018)</p> <p>Number of Students Assessed: 9</p> <p>Number of Successful Students: 9</p> <p>How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: All MS students are required to take the mathematical programming course. The students work with their major advisors to determine the appropriate semester in which to take the course. Students also work with their major advisors to determine project topic.</p> <p>What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: Students are achieving at a high level of performance.</p>	<p>Use of Findings (Actions):</p> <p>Continue to work with major advisors on formulating project plans with students that will lead to thesis research. (09/18/2020)</p>

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings (Actions)</i>
<p>performance.</p> <p>* 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:</p> <hr/> <p>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:</p>	<p>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 student's oral communication skills during the final oral exam that people attending the exams may use to score the student.</p> <p>* 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.</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020 Conclusion: 3 - Meets Program Expectations (Proficient) All students were given favorable ratings of their thesis project and oral presentation. Some virtual presentations were used in light of COVID restrictions. (09/18/2020) Number of Students Assessed: 10 Number of Successful Students: 10 How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: All graduating MS students must complete an acceptable oral defense of their thesis or creative component. Timing is determined by collaboration with major advisor and committee. What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: Students are completing high level research projects and creative components. Students are able to communicate their project outcomes through acceptable written and oral means. Students are continuing to work with faculty advisors to publish project outcomes through journals or fact sheets.</p>	<p>Use of Findings (Actions): Continue to encourage work with graduate school writing workshops. Encourage more MS students to participate in 3MT competition to increase oral communication skills. (09/18/2020)</p>
<p>Student Satisfaction - Graduates will</p>	<p>Survey - Each student will complete</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2019 - 2020</p>	

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings (Actions)</i>
<p>express satisfaction with their experience as a Department of Agricultural Economics graduate student.</p> <p>Outcome Status: Active</p> <p>Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021</p> <p>Start Date:</p> <p>Archived Date:</p> <p>Outcome Type: Disposition</p> <p>Reason for Archival:</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>* Learning Outcome</p> <p>Goal/Benchmark: At least 70% satisfaction rate with program experience.</p> <p>Timeline for Assessment: Each semester</p> <p>Other Assessment Type:</p>	<p>Conclusion: 3 - Meets Program Expectations (Proficient)</p> <p>Because of the odd situation COVID created, and a change in department head during the time frame of assessment, we are still completing the exit interview process with graduates and collecting surveys. We will continue to analyze. (09/18/2020)</p> <p>Number of Students Assessed: 10</p> <p>Number of Successful Students: 0</p> <p>How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?: All graduating students complete the exit interview and survey.</p> <p>What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?: Preliminary finding suggest students are satisfied with the program. The proficient finding is gained from initial response. Waiting on finals surveys from all students.</p>	