

Program Plans: Outcomes and Assessment Methods



Program (AG) - AGECON - Agricultural Economics (PhD) - 006

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: 20

Total Number of Students Graduated: 2

Number of Student Graduates from Stillwater Campus: 2

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 overall. Discussion of earlier results led to the inclusion of a math readiness camp for entering students. We believe this math preparation has led to the increased performance of PhD students for their theory and quantitative comprehensive exams. At this time, we do not see the need to change in the way PhD 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 PhD program. Some course changes may occur because of reduction in course offerings from Economics Department.

Based on this year's findings, what (if any) changes are planned for the assessment process?: No changes are planned for the assessment process although consideration is being given to setting expectations for paper or poster presentation at a professional meeting to help increase skills of PhD students.

Describe the process for implementing these changes/planned program improvements: The Curriculum and Assessment Committee will consider any changes and make recommendations to the faculty. Changing to a new assessment coordinator and additional assistance by staff. 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: Improved Faculty Understanding or Buy-In

"Other" Improvements:

Goals for the Coming Year: Continue math camp and high rigor in classes to continue with strong rate of passing comprehensive exams. Explore course needs based on reduction in Economics Department offerings and reduction in our faculty.

Is this Summary Report Complete?: Yes

List all individuals associated with this report preparation: Cheryl DeVuyst

Outcome: Knowledge of the field

Graduates will demonstrate an ability to understand, integrate and apply the appropriate tools, concepts, and basic principles of the general area of "Economic Theory" covering such basic concepts as the theory of the firm, the theory of consumer choice, the theory of market price with emphasis on applications to the field of agriculture, and basic concepts of the theory of income and employment, monetary theory, theory of economic growth and development, economic policy and the history of economic thought with emphasis on application to the field of agriculture.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

Start Date:

Archived Date:

Outcome Type: Knowledge

Reason for Archival:

Assessment Methods

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - Each Ph.D. candidate must take a written preliminary examination covering the general area of "Economic Theory." The Department has an appointed committee that is responsible for administering the examination and grades the examination. The committee has developed a simple rubric to report each student's understanding of the core concepts. Students have three chances to pass the examination. (Active)

* **Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** N/A

Timeline for Assessment: The exam is given twice a year.

Other Assessment Type:

Outcome: Use of concepts and tools

Graduates will demonstrate an ability to understand, integrate, and apply the appropriate tools, concepts, and basic principles the general area of "Quantitative Methods" covering mathematical programming, methodology, statistics, econometrics, and primary data analysis with emphasis on applications to the field of agriculture.

Outcome Status: Active

Planned Assessment Year: 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021

Start Date:

Archived Date:

Outcome Type: Skills

Reason for Archival:

Assessment Methods

Program (AG) - AGECON - Agricultural Economics (PhD) - 006

Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) - Each Ph.D. candidate must take a written preliminary examination covering the general area of "Quantitative Methods." The Department has an appointed committee that is responsible for administering the examination and grades the examination. The committee has developed a simple rubric to report each student's understanding of the core concepts. Students have three chances to pass the examination. (Active)

*** Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** N/A

Timeline for Assessment: Twice per year

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

Oral Presentation - Each Ph.D. student must complete a dissertation. We have developed a rubric to rate the student's written communication skills shown while completing the dissertation. The student's committee members may use the rubric to score the student. Each Ph.D. 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. (Active)

*** Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:** N/A

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, Rating of skills (e.g., rubrics), Review of thesis/dissertation/ creative component.