

# Program Plan and Findings: Four Column Layout



## 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

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings (Actions)</i>
<p><b>Knowledge of the field</b> - 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</p>	<p><b>Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s)</b> - 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 students understanding of the core concepts. Students have three chances to pass the examination.  <b>* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2019 - 2020  <b>Conclusion:</b> 4 - Exceeds Program Expectations (Advanced)            Students may make three attempts to take the exam. All seven students who took the comprehensive exam passed. Six passed on the first attempt and one took two separate attempts to pass. (09/17/2020)  <b>Number of Students Assessed:</b> 7  <b>Number of Successful Students:</b> 7  <b>How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?:</b> Students select when they take the exam in consultation with their major advisor. All PhD students are required to take the comprehensive exam.  <b>What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?:</b> The students performed exceptionally well by all passing the economic theory preliminary exam the first time. Students are achieving at a</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings (Actions):</b>            Continue to recruit high level students and provide high quality, challenging instruction.            (09/17/2020)</p>

Outcomes	Assessment Methods	Findings	Use of Findings (Actions)
<p>with emphasis on application to the field of agriculture.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Year:</b> 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b></p> <p><b>Archived Date:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome Type:</b> Knowledge</p> <p><b>Reason for Archival:</b></p>	<p><b>Timeline for Assessment:</b> The exam is given twice a year.</p> <p><b>Other Assessment Type:</b></p>	<p>high level.</p>	
<p><b>Use of concepts and tools -</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Year:</b> 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b></p> <p><b>Archived Date:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome Type:</b> Skills</p> <p><b>Reason for Archival:</b></p>	<p><b>Comprehensive, Certification, or Professional Exam(s) -</b> 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 students understanding of the core concepts. Students have three chances to pass the examination.</p> <p><b>* Learning Outcome Goal/Benchmark:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Timeline for Assessment:</b> Twice per year</p> <p><b>Other Assessment Type:</b></p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2019 - 2020</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> 4 - Exceeds Program Expectations (Advanced) Students may make three attempts to take the exam. All seven students taking the quantitative methods preliminary exam passed. One student required two attempts at different quantitative methods exams to pass. Six of the seven passed on the first time. (09/17/2020)</p> <p><b>Number of Students Assessed:</b> 7</p> <p><b>Number of Successful Students:</b> 7</p> <p><b>How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?:</b> All PhD students are required to take the comprehensive exam. Students decide with major advisor when to take the exam.</p> <p><b>What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?:</b> This group of PhD students is performing exceptionally well on quantitative methods in agricultural economics.</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings (Actions):</b> Continue to recruit high quality, well prepared doctoral students and provide high quality, challenging instruction. (09/17/2020)</p>
<p><b>Communication -</b> Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in written and oral forms economic concepts, methods and analysis.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Year:</b> 2019 - 2020, 2020 - 2021</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b></p> <p><b>Archived Date:</b></p>	<p><b>Oral Presentation -</b> 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</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2019 - 2020</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> 3 - Meets Program Expectations (Proficient) Two students are not enough to report results. We continue to monitor the results over time. We have not found any strong weakness as all the averages are above three where three is sufficient or acceptable. PhD students have published peer-reviewed journal articles and presented research at regional and national meetings from their dissertation research.</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings (Actions):</b> Continue to encourage students to move toward degree completion. (09/17/2020)</p>

<i>Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings (Actions)</i>
<p><b>Outcome Type:</b> Skills <b>Reason for Archival:</b></p>	<p>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><b>* Learning Outcome</b> <b>Goal/Benchmark:</b> N/A <b>Timeline for Assessment:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Other Assessment Type:</b> Analysis of written artifacts, Rating of skills (e.g., rubrics), Review of thesis/dissertation/ creative component.</p>	<p>(09/20/2020)</p> <p><b>Number of Students Assessed:</b> 2 <b>Number of Successful Students:</b> 2</p> <p><b>How were students selected to participate in the assessment of this outcome?:</b> Students self-select by completing the dissertation.</p> <p><b>What do the findings suggest about student achievement of this learning outcome?:</b> Results suggest students are achieving the learning outcome.</p>	