

Sustainable Agriculture Certificate

Goal 1- Technical Agriculture Knowledge

Goal Description:

Graduate students will utilize technical knowledge to defend sustainable agriculture viewpoints.

Providing Department: Sustainable Agriculture Certificate

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Goal 1- Objective 1: Communicating and Discussing Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate the ability to write and defend an opinion using technical knowledge of sustainable agriculture.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Goal 1- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Communicating and discussing knowledge

Indicator Description:

Courses are taught on a rotating basis. SAFE 5371 is taught every other year in odd fall/even spring years and 5351 is taught even fall/odd spring years. Writing assignments from each course will be evaluated using rubrics.

Criterion Description:

In SAFE 5351, students select an agricultural topic of their own choosing and write a 6-10 page paper supported by scientific literature and real-life examples. In SAFE 5371 students prepare a plan for an alternative agricultural enterprise and discuss the value of this enterprise. It is our expectation that 70% of our students score a 70% or better on the assessment rubrics in SAFE 5371 and 5351.

Findings Description:

In SAFE 5312, 100% of our students scored a 70% or better on the writing assignment focused on marketing strategies. This brings the total to 23 students for this assessment.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Goal 1- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Communicating and discussing knowledge

Action Description:

At this time, we will continue to collect data until the 25 student threshold is met.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

The plan contains two learning objectives, one that focuses on student performance on technical information and the second on student abilities to write and defend their position on key issues. This allows for an understanding of background perceptions, a gauge of learning of knowledge related to the field, and an assessment of written communication and reasoning skills.

We will continue to identify courses taught in each of these areas that can provide assessment data and working with instructors to develop rubrics for identified assignments. This should allow for a more complete understanding of where our students are coming from and how the program directs and prepares them for the future.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The plan contains two learning objectives, one that focuses on student performance on technical information and the second on student abilities to write and defend their position on key issues. This allows for an understanding of background perceptions, a gauge of learning of knowledge related to the field, and an assessment of written communication and reasoning skills.

We have 23 responses in objective 1 and 28 in objective 2. Therefore we will continue to evaluate assessment data taught in each of these areas until we have a minimum of 25 responses for each objective. This should allow for a more complete understanding of where our students are coming from and how the program directs and prepares them for the future.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

As only one student's information has been recorded in the certificate program, our plan is to continue to gather data until at least 25 students have been through the program before making assessment plan changes.