

# Interdisciplinary Agriculture BS

## 1. Goal 1 (Workplace Readiness) - Ag Science Teacher Placement

**Goal Description:**

Students earning a BS in Interdisciplinary Agriculture will develop the skills necessary to seek initial job placement as they begin their professional careers as teachers.

**Providing Department:** Interdisciplinary Agriculture BS

**Progress:** Draft

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**1. Goal 1 (Workplace Readiness) Objective 1 (Content Exam)**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Interdisciplinary Agricultural students will demonstrate their workplace readiness by obtaining employment as AFNR teachers.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**1. Goal 1 (Workplace Readiness) Objective 1 - Indicator 1 (Content Exam)**

**Indicator Description:**

Interdisciplinary Agricultural (Teacher Certification) students apply and interview for AFNR teaching positions at the conclusion of their Educator Preparation Program (EPP). Employment as an AFNR teacher (in the two semesters following student teaching) will be the area of focus for this indicator. The indicator will be assessed by direct measures (i.e., we communicate with our graduates after they have completed the EPP). The following rubric will be used to assess this indicator:

- Employed as an AFNR Teacher within 1 year of completing EPP: **Indicator Met**
- Not Employed as an AFNR Teacher within 1 year of completing EPP: **Indicator Not Met**

**Criterion Description:**

Our expectation is that 80% of our Interdisciplinary Agricultural (Teacher Certification) students will obtain employment as an AFNR teacher within a year following graduation. The criterion was set at 80% to account for the graduates who decide not to pursue teaching careers and those who are unable to find employment as teachers. The criterion was set based on the One-Year Employment of Certified Teachers data for the EPP at SHSU over the past 4 years (Texas Education Agency, n.d.).

**Findings Description:**

Of the 30 student teachers that we had this year (12 in Fall 23 & 18 in Spring 24), 20 students have been placed at high school teaching jobs or at graduate school-yielding a 69.25% placement rate.

**Fall 23 (n = 12) - 83% placement rate:**

Employed as teacher: 9

Looking for teaching position: 1

Graduate School placement: 1

Not graduated from SHSU at this time: 1

**Spring 24 (n = 18) - 55.5% placement rate:**

Employed as teacher: 8

Looking for teaching position: 7

Graduate School placement: 2

Not pursuing a teaching position: 1

The findings for this indicator fell below the predicted value. While we still have 8 students seeking employment as teachers, we had a total of 3 students who pursued graduate education which lowered the employment percentage. For the upcoming year, we look to determine better practices for placing students in a timely manner.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action - 1.1.1: Content Exam

Action Description:

As explained in the findings of the associated indicator, we failed to obtain a 75% employment rate for

The findings for this indicator fell below the predicted value. While we still have 8 students seeking employment as teachers, we had a total of 3 students who pursued graduate education which lowered the employment percentage. For the upcoming year, we look to determine better practices for placing students in a timely manner.

To enhance the placement rate, we aim to:

- Evaluate the student teaching curriculum to determine if there are any gaps in our training on the interview process.
  - Welcome hiring school districts to host on-campus interviews for students in the teaching block.
- Assess the placement rate of teachers in August to receive a more accurate account of the placement rate (many teachers are still interviewing for positions over the summer).

2. Goal 2 (Knowledge) (Content Knowledge in AFNR)

Goal Description:

Students in Interdisciplinary Agriculture will be provided with a holistic educational experience in various AFNR contexts (e.g., Ag Business, Ag Engineering, Animal Science, Plant Science, Wildlife and Ecology, etc.).

Providing Department: Interdisciplinary Agriculture BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

2. Goal 2 (Knowledge) Objective 1 (Content Knowledge in AFNR)

Learning Objective Description:

Interdisciplinary Agriculture (Teacher Certification Students) will develop knowledge and skills relevant to Agricultural Education and Pedagogy.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

2. Goal 2 (Knowledge) Objective 1 - Indicator 1 (TExES 272 AFNR Content Exam)

Indicator Description:

Students in the Educator Preparation Program become fully certified teachers when they finish up the teacher preparation coursework and take the TExES 272 AFNR Content Exam. This exam is generally taken in the first semester of their Senior year of coursework. The exam encompasses questions related Ag Business, Ag Engineering, Animal Science, Plant Science, and Wildlife and Ecology. The students must obtain a minimal score of 242 (out of 300) to pass the exam.

### **Criterion Description:**

Our expectation is that 85% of the Interdisciplinary Agriculture (Teacher Certification) students will pass the TExES 272 AFNR Content Exam (i.e., score of  $\geq 240$ ) on their first attempt of taking the exam. The Texas Educator Certification Examination Program Pass Rate Report (Texas Education Agency, 2022) served as a guide to determine our benchmark.

### **Findings Description:**

In the 23-24 school year, all senior students in our EPP passed the TExES content exam. Of the 30 student teachers that we had this year (12 in Fall 23 & 18 in Spring 24), 30 students passed the AFNR 272 on their first attempt. The students success at passing the content exam surpassed our expectation of 85%. To continue this success, we will continue to provide a holistic content exam review for our students. Our goals and indicators related to the content exam will remain the same for the next year.

#### **RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

##### **Action 2.1.1 TExES 272 AFNR Content Exam**

#### **Action Description:**

Based on the findings, the indicator 2.1.1 was met. To continue this success, we will continue to provide a holistic content exam review for our students. Our goals and indicators related to the content exam will remain the same for the next year. However, we will reinforce this effort by reinforcing our preparation efforts. Specifically, we will:

#### **Actions:**

- Identify materials and resources available to enhance our students success on the TExES exam.
- Encourage students to evaluate available assessments on Quizlet and other test preparation websites.

#### **RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

### **2. Goal 2 (Knowledge) Objective 1 - Indicator 2 (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160))**

#### **Indicator Description:**

Students in the Educator Preparation Program become fully certified teachers when they finish up the teacher preparation coursework and pass the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 (160) (PPR) Exam. Every Interdisciplinary Agriculture (Teacher Certification) student takes this exam during their last semester while enrolled in the student teaching block. exam tests the applicant's knowledge and skills to be an entry-level teacher in Texas public schools (TExES test.org, n.d.). Specifically the test assesses the teacher candidate's knowledge associated with the following domains: 1) Designing instruction and assessment to promote student learning, 2) creating a positive, productive classroom environment, 3) implementing effective, responsive instruction and assessment, and 4) fulfilling roles and responsibilities.

The TExES PPR exam is converted into a scaled score ranging from 100-300 points. Candidates must score at least a 240 to pass. The Interdisciplinary Agriculture (Teacher Certification) students take the PPR at various testing centers, and the scores are sent to the SHSU EPP which the Ag Teacher Educators have access to. These scores will be used as a direct measure of our students' competency of pedagogy and professional responsibilities needed for teaching. Students will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Student scores  $\geq 240$  points on the PPR Exam = Indicator Met
- Student scores  $< 240$  points on the PPR Exam = Indicator Not Met

### **Criterion Description:**

Our expectation is that 85% of the Interdisciplinary Agriculture (Teacher Certification) students will pass the PPR exam (i.e., score of  $\geq 240$ ) on their first attempt of taking the exam. The Texas Educator Certification Examination Program Pass Rate Report (Texas Education Agency, 2022) served as a guide to determine our benchmark.

**Findings Description:**

In the 23-24 school year, 16 of the senior-level teacher certification students passed the PPR exam (N = 30; 12 in Fall 23 & 18 in Spring 24) - yielding a 53.3% completion rate.. The pass rate at this current point sits at 53.3%, falling short of the indicator. While, we did not meet the indicator, we still have students taking the PPR to complete their teaching certifications.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**Action 2.1.2 - Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC-12**

**Action Description:**

In the 23-24 school year, 16 of the senior-level teacher certification students passed the PPR exam (N = 30; 12 in Fall 23 & 18 in Spring 24). The pass rate at this current point sits at 53.3%, falling short of the indicator. While, we did not meet the indicator, we still have students taking the PPR to complete their teaching certifications.

**Action Items:**

- Assess PPR success rate later in the summer. Student teachers can take this exam after completing their field placement. Extended time would allow for a more accurate measurement.

**Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

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

**Closing Summary**

The plan for continuous improvement in the Interdisciplinary Agriculture program includes evaluating students' professional online identity through LinkedIn profiles and setting a benchmark of 70% of students achieving a score of 3 or higher. Additionally, the plan aims to enhance students' professional marketplace skills by assessing their performance in AGRI 4120 using a portfolio review and rubric, with a target of 80% of students performing at an above-average level. The program also focuses on assessing students' knowledge and skills development in areas such as presentation and communication through ACOM 3360, aiming for a minimum of 80% achievement.

**Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

We will adjust the Previous Cycle's PCI. The plan for continuous improvement in the Interdisciplinary Agriculture program includes evaluating students' knowledge (as assessed by their completion of the TExES 272 and PPR exams) and workplace readiness (as assessed by the teacher placement rate). Therefore, I do not have a progress update for the previous cycle's PCI.

**New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

**Closing Summary:**

The plan for continuous improvement in the Interdisciplinary Agriculture program will include evaluating students' knowledge (as assessed by their completion of the TExES 272 and PPR exams) and workplace readiness (as assessed by the teacher placement rate). We will attempt to assess the placement rates and passing rates on the test later in the summer. Also, we will seek to find innovative resources to supplement our students preparation process for the TExES 272 exam.