

Plant and Soil Science BS

1-Professional Marketplace Skills

Goal Description:

Students completing the BS in Plant and Soil Science will develop the skills necessary to seek initial job placement as they begin their professional careers.

Providing Department: Plant and Soil Science BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

1-Job Application Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students completing the BS in Plant and Soil Science will demonstrate job application skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

1-Professional Employment Portfolio in AGRI 4120

Indicator Description:

All students seeking a degree in Plant and Soil Sciences are required to complete AGRI 4120 in their senior year. The course addresses essential skills necessary for job placement in the work force, including resume preparation and technical writing skills. Faculty will review student assignments compiled in a portfolio and assess student performance using a faculty-developed rubric.

Attached Files

 [AGRI 4120 Portfolio Rubric Matrix](#)

Criterion Description:

We expect that at least 80% of PLSC students enrolled in AGRI 4120 would perform at an average level and score a 4 or higher on a scale of 1-5, for each of the components within the three parts of the portfolio. We will collect data until 30 PLSC students are included in the data set.

Findings Description:

2 out of 3 PLSC students (66.7%) scored a four or higher for each of the three components within the three parts of the portfolio. We will continue to collect data until 30 PLSC students are included in the data set.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

1-Professional Employment Portfolio in AGRI 4120

Action Description:

We will push this criterion until we have findings for 30+ students.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

1-Professional Online Identity

Learning Objective Description:

Students will develop a professional online identity.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

1-LinkedIn Profiles

Indicator Description:

All students seeking a degree in Plant & Soil Sciences are required to complete AGRI 4120 as upperclassmen. During the completion of this course all students must develop a professional online identity using LinkedIn. Profiles are evaluated using a faculty-developed rubric, which is attached to this assessment plan.

Criterion Description:

Our expectation is that 70% of students will achieve at least a 70% on all aspects of the rubric. We will collect data until 30 PLSC students are in the data set.

Findings Description:

3 out of 3 PLSC students achieved 70% or higher. We will continue to collect data until 30 PLSC students are in the data set.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

1- LinkedIn Profiles

Action Description:

We will push this criterion until we have findings for 30+ students.

2-Knowledge of Key Disciplinary Concepts and Skills

Goal Description:

Students will be able to demonstrate competency as they develop knowledge and skills relevant to Plant and Soil Sciences.

Providing Department: Plant and Soil Science BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

2-Knowledge of Key Disciplinary Concepts and Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will be able to demonstrate competency in key areas of plant and soil sciences including plant anatomy, plant physiology, and plant metabolism.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

2-Advanced Plant and Soil Science Assignment in PLSC 3300 Indicator Description

Indicator Description:

All students enrolled in the Plant and Soil Sciences (PLSC) Program must complete the advanced Soil Science course, PLSC 3300, in their final year of enrollment. Advanced PLSC courses address key concepts and skills relevant to the field of plant science. PLSC student success will be assessed using comprehensive assessments. Faculty members will score the assessments using a 100 point scale.

Attached Files

 [PLSC 3440 Assessment Rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

At least 70% of students will meet the expectation with a 70% or higher, on PLSC topics (Plant anatomy, plant physiology, and plant metabolism). We will collect data until 30 PLSC students are included in the data set.

Findings Description:

4 out of 5 students (80%, Fall 2024) received a 70% or higher on the comprehensive assessment. Data will continue to be collected until we have 30 PLSC students in the data set.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

2-Advanced Plant and Soil Science Assignment in PLSC 3440 Indicator Description

Action Description:

We will push this criterion until we have findings for 30+ students.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

Closing Summary

We have not met the 30 student threshold set in previous PCIs. However, after reviewing the specific Goals/Objectives/Indicators of this program, the faculty in agriculture have determined that these items do not wholly reflect the needs and goals of our current students. As a result, we will reevaluate all Goals/Objectives/Indicators to better match the needs of our program and the students who are part of it. It is expected that this will require a deep look at what is considered success in this area and will likely cause significant change to the Goals/Objectives/Indicators for the coming academic year.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

We still remain below the 30 student threshold set in previous PCIs. The goals and objectives for the program were reworked this past year to better reflect the goals of the program. Now the focus is on knowledge gain in key courses in the program, as well as workplace readiness.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

In some areas student beat expectations (Online profiles and Applied Plant Physiology) however they still fell short in regards to their performance in the AGRI 4120 portfolio. As a result we have raised expectations in the areas we have been successful in and will determine ways to improve student performance in our more difficult courses.