# *Online Assessment Tracking Database*

Sam Houston State University (SHSU)
*2014 - 2015*

**Plant And Soil Science BS**

**Goal** **Knowledge Of Key Concepts And Skills**

Students will be able to demonstrate competency develop knowledge and skills relevant to Plant and Soil Science.

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**Objective (L)** **Development Of Students' Knowledge And Skills**

Students will be able to demonstrate competency in key areas of plant and soil science including properties of water.

**Indicator** **Advanced Plant And Soil Science Assignment Rubric**

All students enrolled in the program must complete the advanced Plant and Soil Science course in their final year of enrollment. Advanced PLSC courses address key concepts and skills relevant to the field of plant science. Five randomly selected student assignments from PLSC 3440 will be reviewed by faculty members with expertise in the field of plant and soil science. Faculty members will score the assignments using a scale of 1 - 5 with 3 "meets expectations," 4 "exceeds expectations," and 5 "far exceeds expectations."

**Criterion** **At Least 70% Rated As Meeting Expectations**

There will be a general consensus among Plant Science Faculty members that at least 70% of the students project outcomes will meet an expectation of 3.5 or higher.

**Finding** **PLSC Assessment**

Only 5 Plant Science students were enrolled in the course during this assessment period. The finding from these 5 reviews was a 3.9 on a scale of 1-5. 80% of the PLSC students scored higher than a 3.5. Knowledge of soil water, soil chemistry, and application of plant and soil science knowledge.

**Action** **Continued Improvements**

The topic of soil water will have more in-depth explanation in lecture and lab, improved demonstrations of soil water concepts with different practice problems in the lab and course. Graduate assistance teaching labs will receive additional instruction from the faculty for continuous improvements. Goal will remain the same.

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**Goal** **Develop Professional Skills**

Students completing the BS in Plant and Soil Science will learn the skills necessary for seeking job placement and technical writing in the work place.

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**Objective (L)** **Development Of Professional Writing Skills**

Students completing the BS in Plant and Soil Science will will demonstrate skills necessary to compete in the professional marketplace. Content knowledge along with writing skills will be assessed.

**Indicator**

**AGRI 4120 Assignment Rubric**

All students seeking a degree in Plant and Soil Science will be required to complete AGRI 4120 during their senior year. The course addresses essential skills necessary for job placement in the workforce for agriculture employment - resume preparation, interview skills, technical writing skills and employment opportunities. Faculty will review student assignments and access student performance on selected assignments using a faculty-developed rubric.

**Criterion**

**70% Of Students Rated As Meeting Expectations**

Faculty evaluations will indicate that at least 70% of the Agriculture students enrolled in AGRI 4120 will perform at an acceptable level and score a 3 (meets expectations) or higher on a scale of 1-5. Technical writing skills with emphasis on cohesiveness and concise writing were concerns from previous evaluation and continues to be an area addressed.

**Finding**

**Professional Skills And Writing**

The goal for Plant and Soil Science students was achieved with an average score of 4 out of a possible 5.0. However, only 1 student was with a PLSC degree was enrolled in the course.

**Action**

**Improvement In Technical Writing**

No change in action due to low enrollment. Concise writing will continue to be assessed.

## Previous Cycle's "Plan for Continuous Improvement"

Soil water concepts continues to be an area of concern. Faculty will provide more in-depth explanation in lecture and lab on key elements. Improve demonstrations on Soil Water concepts and different practice problems to enrich the learning process. Teaching assistants for the lab will receive additional instruction from the faculty on record for continuous improvement. Goal will remain the same.

**Please detail the elements of your previous "Plan for Continuous Improvement" that were implemented. If elements were not implemented please explain why, along with any contextual challenges you may have faced that prevented their implementation.**

Plan of action was implemented but will continue to refine and add detail of soil water properties.

**Plan for Continuous Improvement - Please detail your plan for improvement that you have developed based on what you learned from your 2014 - 2015 Cycle Findings.**

The topic of soil water will have more in-depth explanation in lecture and lab, improved demonstrations of soil water concepts with different practice problems in the lab and course. Graduate assistance teaching labs will receive additional instruction from the faculty for continuous improvements. Goal will remain the same.