

Plant and Soil Science BS

Develop Professional Skills

Goal Description:

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.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Development of Marketplace Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students completing the BS in Plant and Soil Science will demonstrate skills necessary to compete in the professional marketplace.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

AGRI 4120- Professional Employment Portfolio

Indicator Description:

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

Attached Files

 [AGRI 4120 Portfolio Rubric Matrix](#)

Criterion Description:

Faculty evaluations will indicate that at least 70% of the Plant and Soil Science 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 evaluations and continue to be an area addressed.

Findings Description:

On average, 60% of Plant and Soil Science students in the class scored 3 or higher on the professional portfolio submission. Therefore, we failed to meet our objective of a minimum 70% scoring a 3 or higher. The portfolio included a cover letter, resume, reference page, letters of recommendation and an application. Other majors in this same class consistently surpassed the 70% mark. Due the small population (N=5) of Plant and Soil Science students, this placed the group at a higher risk of failing to achieve the level. This deficiency and the importance of submitting a completed portfolio for assessment will be addressed with students in AGRI 4120 this fall.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Development of Marketplace Skills

Action Description:

We failed to meet our objective of a minimum 70% of Plant and Soil Science students scoring a 3 or higher on development of marketplace skills. Other majors in this same class consistently surpassed the 70% mark. Due the small population (N=5) of Plant and Soil Science students, this placed the group at a higher risk of failing to achieve the level. This deficiency and the importance of submitting a completed portfolio for assessment will be addressed with students in AGRI 4120 this fall.

Based on these findings, we will continue monitoring student performance on an annual basis. We must be diligent in continuous assessment of this learning objective to ensure that our students are prepared to enter the marketplace.

Knowledge of Key Concepts and Skills

Goal Description:

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

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS-----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Development of Students’ Knowledge and Skills

Learning Objective Description:

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

PLSC 3440- Advanced Plant And Soil Science Assignment Rubric

Indicator Description:

All students enrolled in the program must complete the advanced Plant and Soil Science (PLSC) course, PLSC 3440, 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 PLSC. Faculty members will score the assignments using a scale of 1 - 5 with 3 "meets expectations," 4 "exceeds expectations," and 5 "far exceeds expectations."

Attached Files

[!\[\]\(3dfb8d66e81160ad61421a3452093d1b_img.jpg\) PLSC 3440 Assessment Rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

There is a general consensus among PLSC faculty members that at least 70% of students' project outcomes will meet an expectation of 3.5 or higher.

Findings Description:

There were three PLSC students in PLSC 3440 during Fall Semester 2015 (all other students were non-majors). All three students had identical scores in each of the learning outcomes, scoring 3.7, higher than the 3.5 or greater minimum expectation. Since the previous evaluation period (Fall 2014), greater in-depth explanations were given on soil water topics in both lecture and lab and this will continue.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Development of Students' Knowledge and Skills

Action Description:

The three PLSC students in PLSC 3440 during Fall Semester 2015 had identical scores in each of the learning outcomes, scoring 3.7, higher than the 3.5 or greater minimum expectation. It appears that greater in-depth explanations given on soil water topics in both lecture and lab improved student performance compared to Fall 2014. We recommend that this continue.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Greater in-depth explanations were given on soil water topics in both lecture and lab in this cycle with noted student learning improvements. Therefore, this instruction will be continued.

Marketplace Skills and Content Knowledge

Closing Summary:

We failed to meet our objective of a minimum 70% of Plant and Soil Science students scoring a 3 or higher on development of marketplace skills. Other majors in this same class consistently surpassed the 70% mark. Due the small population (N=5) of Plant and Soil Science students, this placed the group at a higher risk of failing to achieve the level. This deficiency and the importance of submitting a completed portfolio for assessment will be addressed with students in AGRI 4120 this fall.

Based on these findings, we will continue monitoring student performance on an annual basis. We must be diligent in continuous assessment of this learning objective to ensure that our students are prepared to enter the marketplace.

The three PLSC students in PLSC 3440 during Fall Semester 2015 had identical scores in each of the learning outcomes, scoring 3.7, higher than the 3.5 or greater minimum expectation. It appears that greater in-depth explanations given on soil water topics in both lecture and lab improved student performance compared to Fall 2014. We plan to continue this process to see if improvement continues.