

# Interdisciplinary Agriculture BS

## 1-Develop Professional Marketplace Skills

**Goal Description:**

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

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**1-Development of Professional Marketplace Skills**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students completing the BS in Agriculture will demonstrate skills necessary to compete in the professional marketplace.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**1-AGRI 4120- Professional Employment Portfolio**

**Indicator Description:**

All students seeking a degree in Agriculture are required to complete AGRI 4120 in their senior year. The course addresses essential skills necessary for job placement in the work force- resume preparation, interview skills, technical writing skills and employment opportunities. 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:**

Faculty expectations are 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.

**Findings Description:**

The instructor of the course chose to report results based on an average score, rather than the proportion of students achieving a 3 or greater on the portfolio this year. We will likely return to the proportion measurement in future assessments.

On average, Interdisciplinary Agriculture students (n=6) scored 3.28/5.0 on the standardized rubric. The portfolio included a cover letter, resume, reference page, letters of recommendation and an employment application. Generally, Interdisciplinary Agriculture students performed comparably to previous semesters. However, there is room for improvement.

Strengths:

- Resumes are of good, useful quality
- Job applications are (neatly) completed

Weaknesses:

- Alignment between resume and references
- Letters of recommendation

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**1-AGRI 4120- Professional Employment Portfolio**

**Action Description:**

Students are exceeding expectation, but there is room for improvement. The primary recommendation is stressing the importance of selecting references as a component of future course expectations.

## 2-Knowledge of Key Disciplinary Concepts and Skills

**Goal Description:**

Students will develop knowledge and skills relevant to agriculture.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**2-Development of Students’ Knowledge and Skills**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will be able to demonstrate competency in key areas of professional communication skills through electronic presentations of technical agriculture content. Content knowledge along with writing and oral communications will be important skills assessed.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

2-ACOM 3360- Student Knowledge and Skills Development

Indicator Description:

All students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Agriculture program must complete ACOM 3360. ACOM 3360 addresses key presentation concepts via electronic media and communication and writing skills of technical content in agriculture. Five presentations of students majoring in Agriculture will be reviewed by faculty members with expertise in the field of agriculture. Faculty members will score the assignments using a scale ranging from 1-10 for specific aspects of the presentation and oral skills with categories of no evidence of achievement, inadequate evidence, adequate, and outstanding (see attached rubric).

Attached Files

 [ACOM 3360 Presentation Rubric](#)

Criterion Description:

Faculty in Agricultural Sciences will assess students' agricultural knowledge enrolled in ACOM 3360 via oral and electronic presentation of technical topics relevant to agriculture. At least 80% of the students will be expected to perform at a level equivalent to adequate evidence or higher as noted on the rubric. Specific focus will be in the areas of clarity, ag/content knowledge and grammar will skills of emphasis as noted from previous review.

Findings Description:

Consolidated Outcomes

- General Requirements of Presentation Aid = 5.0/6
- Content of Presentation Aid = 3.5/5
- Grammatical Correctness of Presentation Aid = 4.0/5
- Formatting of Presentation Aid = 6.5/10
- Animation of Presentation Aid = 3.8/5
- Graphics of Presentation Aid = 3.2/4
- Professionalism During Oral Presentation= 4.0/5
- Clarity of Oral Presentation = 2.8/3
- Content and Elaboration During Oral Presentation = 6.2/7

Two of the four students assessed met the 80% goal. Therefore, 50% of the students met the desired student outcomes to 1) create an effective, technically correct presentation aid and 2) demonstrate effective presentation skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

2-ACOM 3360- Student Knowledge and Skills Development

Action Description:

The “Content of Presentation Aid,” “Formatting of Presentation Aid” and “Animation of Presentation Aid” sections of the rubric revealed the greatest need for improvement since they were individually below the 80% level. Therefore, more focus will be placed on helping students clearly understand what is correct regarding the presentation aid itself. The oral components of the presentation were all above 80% individually, so students performed satisfactorily in these areas.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

We must be diligent in continuous assessment of the learning objective, "Development of Marketplace Skills" to ensure that our students are prepared to enter the marketplace. We may consider moving the criterion description standard to 70% of Agriculture students enrolled in the course scoring a 4 or higher, rather than a 3 or higher, but we believe it is too early to make this change at this point in time.

Students improved their performance at the expected level in content and skills, with room for improvement on the area of the "Presentation Aid." Therefore, more focus will be placed on helping students clearly understand what is correct regarding how a presentation aid should be used.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Assessment instruments indicate that students are prepared and have the necessary tools to begin their initial career search.

Initial results from presentation evaluations note students' oral communication skills exceed expectations, but that clarity regarding the presentation aid needs to be added to improve this component of the assessment process.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

1. Develop Professional Marketplace Skills: It is imperative that we continue to be diligent in assessment of the learning objective, "Development of Marketplace Skills" to ensure that our students are prepared to enter their career fields. Though students generally exceeded expectations, we will consider adjusting the overall average expectation and/or the percentage exceeding "meet expectations" in future semesters.

2. ACOM 3360 - Student Knowledge and Skills Development: Based on assessment results, course instructors will focus on helping students clearly understand what is correct regarding the presentation aid itself through example and instruction. Student strengths in the oral components of the presentation will be reinforced to maintain/enhance oral communication.