

**Assessment of Student Learning for the Agribusiness Management Systems Program
Management Option
2016-2017 Academic Year**

Agribusiness Management Systems Program Learning Outcome Assessment

Students majoring in Agribusiness Management Systems are expected to meet the following learning outcomes upon completion of their degrees.

- SLO 1. Demonstrate computer skills
- SLO 2. Apply economic information to real world situations
- SLO 3. Think critically and demonstrate problem-solving skills
- SLO 4. Read, comprehend, and analyze basic financial statements and demonstrate basic accounting skills
- SLO 5. Effectively communicate in both an oral and written format
- SLO 6. Demonstrate skills enabling them to work effectively as individuals and in groups

Assessment of program outcomes includes the following tools.

1. Course Competency: Expected learning outcomes are measured in several prominent courses within the program
2. Capstone Course: ABM 2903: Entrepreneurship is required of all the students in the AMS Management program. In this course students develop a portfolio of a business plan for an entrepreneurial venture and present their proposed venture to judges from both industry and academics.
3. Internship Employer Surveys: Students receiving a degree with a Management option is required to obtain an experiential learning experience through an internship.

1. Course Competency Summary for Assessing Agribusiness Management Systems Program Outcomes

Courses are the primary method of assessing attainment of knowledge and skills in our students. Industry provides the department on feedback on the skills required to be successful within chosen fields of Agribusiness and the courses are to provide training and information to help our students be successful. The following curriculum map illustrates that the program learning objectives are focused on in the courses.

	SLO1	SLO2	SLO3	SLO4	SLO5	SLO6
ABM 1803: Business Statistics	X	X	X		X	X
ABM 2003: Critical Thinking	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2004: Internship	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2103: Personal Finance	X			X	X	
ABM 2403: Ag Finance	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2503: Ag Decision Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2854: Farm & Ranch Management	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2903: Entrepreneurship	X	X	X	X	X	X
ABM 2911: Seminar	X				X	
ABM 2963: Farm, Ranch, and Small Business Recordkeeping	X		X	X	X	
ACT 1103: Accounting I	X		X	X	X	X
ACT 1203: Accounting II	X		X	X	X	X
AIT 1003: Software Productivity	X				X	
AIT 1073: Introduction to Databases	X				X	

ECN 1103: Introduction to Ag Economics	X	X	X		X	
ECN 1203: Microeconomics	X	X	X		X	X
ECN 1303: Macroeconomics	X	X	X		X	X
MGT 2103: Management Concepts	X		X	X	X	X
MGT 2503: Human Resource Management	X		X		X	X
MKT 2103: Retail Marketing	X		X		X	
MKT 2203: Ag Marketing	X	X	X	X	X	X
SPC 1103: Sales Communications	X				X	X

Course competency is an important assessment tool for student learning for the following program outcomes:

1. Students will be able to think critically and demonstrate problem-solving skills. (Industry competence)
2. Students will be able to apply economic information to real world situations. (Industry competence)
3. Students will be able to effectively communicate in both an oral and written format. (Industry skills)

AY: 2016-2017							
	ABM 2854 Farm & Ranch MGT	ABM 2503 Ag Decision Analysis	ABM 2903 Entrepreneurship	ABM 2004 Internship	ECN 1203 Micro	ECN 1303 Macro	MKT 2203 Ag Marketing
# of students	32	12	14	0	25	26	34
% of course outcomes met	100%	100%	100%	--	92%	92%	97%

Analysis: AMS students are successfully meeting these outcomes. It was noted on the individual faculty SLO reports that those students who did not, or had difficulties, meeting these outcomes were typically due to absences or not completing assignments. Lack of confidence in math skills and aversion to speaking in public were also cited for students failing course competency.

Econ 1203 and 1303 the Principle courses were added into this year's assessment as these courses lay the foundation for business decision making and problem solving. The purpose for this was to determine a possible correlation with problem solving skills in the second year courses with the success of these two courses in the first year.

2. Capstone Course: ABM 2903 Entrepreneurship

Assessment of Entrepreneurship Portfolio and Presentation

# of Projects: 14	Portfolio	Presentation
3.50– 4.0 Average Score Range	7	9
3.0 – 3.49 Average Score Range	5	4
2.5 – 2.99 Average Score Range	2	1
< 2.5	0	0

In addition to course work, students completed a business plan portfolio that required research and analysis of current industry trends and challenges. Not all students in this course chose an Ag industry related venture.

Analysis: Portfolios and presentations by the students were, on average, above average in content and creativity. Appropriate research on current industry trends for their chosen endeavors was appropriate and given current research limitations, thorough. Those whose work fell below the others were often due to a high number of absences and their work appeared to be rushed to be caught up. Information was missing or incomplete.

Considerations for improved success

The numbers indicate that students are successfully meeting the objectives. A potential change in the format of the course is being considered that may assist students. Students will be required to meet with the Instructor (Mary Rittenhouse) a minimum of four times with their portfolio to ensure the student is not falling behind.

3. Internship Employer Surveys

AMS did not have any student enrolled in ABM 2004: Internship during the academic year 12016-2017. Students returning to NCTA for a third year for an AMS degree in Management are allowed to use the internship from their previous degree. Therefore, these students will be addressing the objectives of that degree.

Analysis: Internships allow students to apply the knowledge and theory they have learned in the classroom to a professional workplace. Internships also allow students to make connections in the professional fields they may be considering as career paths. A primary benefit to the student is that it provides “relevant” work experience.

While allowing students to earn the AMS Management Option A.A.S. in one year, using some of their courses from their initial degree, the internship may not have an agribusiness component. To ensure that competency is achieved a discussion should take place between the Divisions to determine who this can be addressed and come to a solution to allow internships include an agribusiness component.