

Assessment of Student Learning in the Animal Science- Ag Education Division

2016-2017 Academic Year

Part 1- Animal Science and Ag Education Program Learning Outcome Assessment

Students majoring in Animal Science or Agricultural Education are expected to meet the following learning outcomes upon completion of their degrees.

1. Students will be able to effectively communicate in oral and written form.
2. Students will be able to gather, assimilate, and process information to reach sound logical conclusions.
3. Students will be able to apply economic principles of accounting, marketing and budgeting to agricultural enterprises.
4. Students will be able to exhibit required knowledge and skills consistent with their chose field of study. (Technical Competence)
5. Learning outcomes specific to livestock area options(Livestock Industry Management and Equine Industry Management)
 - a. Students will be knowledgeable in the areas of modern livestock husbandry and management practices.
6. Learning outcomes specific to transfer options
 - a. Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge in the areas of biology, chemistry, mathematics, and oral/written communication along with a basic understanding of agriculture consistent with standards set for baccalaureate degrees.

Assessment of Animal Science and Ag Education program outcomes includes the following tools.

1. Course Competency
 - a. Technical Knowledge is measured in several key courses.
2. Capstone Course/ Project
 - a. Students who are in the Livestock Industry Management or Equine Industry Management Program Areas take the AGR 2943-Farm and Ranch Capstone. Students design business plans encompassing details of the operation.
3. Internship Employer Surveys
 - a. The results from these surveys provide feedback on outcome of technical competence from the employer perspective.

Part 2-Course Competency Summary for Assessing Animal Science and Ag Education Courses

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

1. Students will be able to exhibit required knowledge and skills consistent with their chose field of study. (Technical Competence)
2. Learning outcomes specific to livestock area options(Livestock Industry Management and Equine Industry Management)
 - a. Students will be knowledgeable in the areas of modern livestock husbandry and management practices.
3. Learning outcomes specific to transfer options
 - b. Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge in the areas of biology, chemistry, mathematics, and oral/written communication along with a basic understanding of agriculture consistent with standards set for baccalaureate degrees.

Livestock Industry	ASI 1253 Nutrition	ASI 1303 Animal Management	ASI 2303 Range Management	ASI 2353 Livestock Breeding	ASI 2384 Large Animal Diseases and Pharmacology	ASI 2774 Beef Production
# of Students	13	63	18	14	21	18
% of Course Learning Outcomes Met	92.3%	90.4%	83.3%	100.00%	100.00%	94.44%

Students are meeting the outcomes in these courses that provide essential knowledge and skills for them to be productive in the Livestock Industry. Many of the students which were not successful correlated to the attendance of the courses listed above.

Equine Industry Management	ASI 2262 Equine Nutrition	ASI 2433 Equine Industry Management I	ASI 2443 Equine Industry Management II	ASI 1442 Equine Practicum I	ASI 2442 Equine Practicum II	ASI 2612 Equine Repro
# of Students	0	9	10	8	4	16
% of Course Learning Outcomes Met	0	100%	90.00%	100%	100%	100%

ASI 2262 was absorbed into Equine Industry Management II. We have focused on student attendance and retention in these courses as well as recruitment of students for the Equine Industry Management option.

Ag Education		AED 1103 Introduction to Secondary Agriscience Education	AED 1233 Planning Leadership and Experiential Programs
# of students		6	6
% of Course Learning Outcomes Met		100.00%	100.00%

In Ag Education, we combined AED 1101 Early Field Experience and the original AED 1103 into the new AED 1103 which is Introduction to Secondary Agriscience Education. Doing so allowed us to align with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in course offering as well as meet more frequently for the observation information. In this newly offered course, the students meet 2 days a week for discussions on Careers and beginning the discussions of lesson planning. The students are required to observe teachers in the field for a minimum of 40 hours.

Part 3 Capstone Project Assessment Summary

Scale: 5 = excellent, 4 = Above average, 3 = Average, 2 = Below Average, 1 = Very Poor

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Projects Evaluated	26	18	20	30	37	29
Program Outcome						
1) Written Communication	3	3	2.5	3	3	3.5
2) Gather and assimilate information	3	3	3	3	3	3.5
3) Analyze, interpret and apply information	3	3	3	3	3	3.5
4) Apply economic principles to ag enterprises	3	3	3	3	3	2.5
5) Humane livestock management	3	3	3	3	3	4
6) Livestock waste and facility management	3	3	3	3	3	3
7) Livestock husbandry practices	3	3	3	3	3	4
8) Cultural practices are sustainable	3	3	3	3	3	3

We see continued growth in the students especially after the internships. They mature during the internship program which is what we are striving to see, but also see that the students have added skills from the learning opportunity. The ratings continue to be strong from the employers. We did have a couple of interns which had challenges (both completed the internship and passed), but not to the level we expect as students of NCTA. One instance an Equine Intern and Employer had some communication challenge. Another intern had communication challenges with his direct supervisor. The Overall Ranch manager gave the student high remarks, but did indicate some challenges between the two employees.

Conclusion

Students are meeting the learning outcomes if engaged in the classroom. The failure to have a 100% meeting expectations does occur when students do not attend classes as regularly as possible. We are working to make sure student success is achieved. We reach out to the students to assist in any way possible to have them attend class or speak with us directly.