

**SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY**  
**Agriculture and Nutrition Science Department**  
**Academic Outcomes Assessment Report**  
**Academic Year 2007-2008**

**Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose**

The Agriculture and Nutrition Science Department (AGNS) reflects the mission of the College of Science and is consistent with the mission, vision and goals of the university. The department consists of two programs (agriculture and nutrition), each with its own discipline-specific mission and goals. The composite mission of the department is to provide students with excellent classroom, laboratory and field experiences leading certificates, associates and baccalaureate degrees in their chosen field of study. The department is also engaged in related scholarship of application and extensive service activities. Through well-educated, professionally qualified faculty and staff, excellent physical resources (classes and labs) and generous experiential learning opportunities, the department can demonstrate how its mission embraces the five university mission items that “provide students a personalized learning environment to foster meaningful experiences involving the mind, heart and hands.”

**Mission Statement for Agriculture**

The agriculture program (AGSC) offers all students the opportunity to understand the discipline of agriculture as an applied science and a model for the principles of bioeconomics. The program is to be closely allied to the concept of service to the agricultural community. Recognizing the diversity of agriculture, faculty will continue to articulate partnerships with colleagues and programs across the university campus. The agriculture program will demonstrate teaching excellence by maintaining a faculty of well-educated and experienced agriculturalists. AGSC will promote a strong hands-on structured learning atmosphere and provide opportunities for students to gain practical experience and engage in independent scholarly inquiry.

**Goals Statement**

1. Through a broad offering of one, two and four-year programs, the agriculture program will prepare students for one of a number of careers in agricultural science and industry, farm and ranch management, and related public or private service.
2. The program will prepare students to pursue advanced degrees or admission to a professional school upon completion of their work at SUU.

**Intended Outcomes/Objectives**

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge and applications-based competency in their particular certificate program, degree and emphasis (i.e., Certificate in Livestock Farm Management; AAS in Livestock Farm Management; BIS in Agricultural Science and Industry with an emphasis in agribusiness, animal science, plant science, or general agriculture; pre-veterinary studies).
2. Students will use scientific methodology; employ critical thinking skills; apply appropriate tools/methods/theories to address problems and, carry out investigations as a means to understand the challenges of providing food, fiber, by-products, and recreational opportunities to others.
3. Students will communicate effectively using terminology appropriate to the discipline and understand the role of leadership in the field of agriculture.

**Assessment Criteria and Activities**

1. AGSC students will pass their AGSC classes with a minimum grade of C as evaluated by assessment measures within each course. AGSC courses will include activities that enable students to demonstrate a reasonable level of proficiency in the skills they have learned.
2. a. At least 25 AGSC students will participate in undergraduate research, service learning, internships, or practicum.
  - b. Several theories, protocols, and standard practices will be applied and reinforced through hands-on applications.
3. a. At least one course at each level of the curriculum will require demonstration of effective communication through activities such as written reports, oral presentations, or demonstrations. Student directed study projects and undergraduate research projects will require an oral presentation before an audience of faculty, staff, and/or peers.
  - b. All AGSC students will pass AGSC 1990 and 4990 before graduating.
  - c. Students will be provided opportunities to develop and demonstrate communication and leadership abilities as a structured curricular component.

**Results and Summary of Assessment**

1. Ten AGSC students did not pass their AGSC classes with a minimum grade of ‘C.’
2. a. Twelve students participated in AGSC internships and/or practicums. All students enrolled in AGSC 1990 (37) and 4990 (20) participated in service learning activities. Two students participated in undergraduate research; one presented research results both on campus and at a regional conference.
  - b. Several hands-on applications have been utilized in labs on campus and at the SUU Valley Farm.
3. a. Criteria met.
  - b. All AGSC students participated in AGSC 1990 and/or AGSC 4900. All 47 students enrolled in the fall and 27 enrolled in the spring passed the classes.
  - c. AGSC 1990 and 4900 provided multiple and varied opportunities for students to provide both leadership and service both on and off campus.

**Use of Results**

1. Not inordinately high. Faculty will continue to work individually with students who are struggling in classes to provide encouragement and recommend use of support services as needed.
2. a. Participation in internships and service learning is increasing to our targeted goal. Participation in undergraduate research increased over last year. A method of documenting service learning activities in AGSC 1990 and 4990 was developed (a list of activities was kept by the department secretary and forward to the dean).
  - b. Continue with plan
3. a. Continue with plan
  - b. Met criteria; continue the process.
  - c. Met criteria; continue the process.

**Mission Statement for Agriculture**

**Intended Outcomes/Objectives**

4. Students will express satisfaction with their learning experience and be well prepared for post-graduation plans and opportunities.

**Assessment Criteria and Activities**

4. a. The exit survey will indicate that at least 75% of graduating students will agree that the quality, availability and diversity of class and lab offerings were appropriate.

b. At least 75% of graduating students will agree that they are well prepared for post-graduation plans.

c. At least 75% of students who actively seek employment in the field will have jobs within 6 months of graduation.

**Results and Summary of Assessment**

4. a. One hundred percent graduating students agreed or strongly agreed that the quality and diversity of class and lab offerings were appropriate; 88.8% agreed that the availability and diversity of class and lab offerings were appropriate.

b. One hundred percent of graduating students agreed or strongly agreed that they are well-prepared for post-graduation plans.

c. Data not yet available (six months have not passed since graduation).

**Use of Results**

4. a. Met criteria; continue the process.

b. Met criteria; continue the process.

c. Follow up on graduate activities.

### Mission Statement for Nutrition

Recognizing the critical role of nutrition to all human endeavors, the mission of the nutrition program (NFS) is to provide sound, science-based principles, theories and applications to students who's personal or professional interests embrace the discipline. The degree in Human Nutrition at SUU prepares students for a number of related careers or entrance into a graduate program upon degree completion at SUU. Additionally, the NFS program promotes wellness by offering a minor and support courses to compliment a variety of other disciplines, especially those related to health and human services, and athletics. The program demonstrates dedication to outstanding teaching by maintaining a faculty of well-educated, professionally qualified professor-practitioners.

### Goals Statement

1. The goal of the Human Nutrition degree at SUU is to prepare students for a number of related careers or entrance into a graduate program upon degree completion.
2. The intent of the program is to foster a broad understanding of the science of nutrition as it is integrated into all human pursuits.

### Intended Outcomes/Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate their knowledge mastery of the discipline (i.e., nutrition and food sciences) at a level appropriate to the offering.
2. Students will be satisfied with the learning experiences provided them by the program.
3. Students will recognize and be prepared for numerous opportunities afforded them professionally or to pursue further study at a level appropriate to the offering.

### Assessment Criteria and Activities

1. NFS students will pass their NFS classes with a minimum grade of C, as evaluated by assessment measures within each course. NFS courses will include activities that enable students to demonstrate a reasonable level of proficiency in the skills they have learned.
2. a. At least 80% of graduating students will agree with the statement, "The quality, availability, and diversity of NFS-related course offerings and lab experiences in my degree program were appropriate."  
b. At least 70% of graduating students will give a rating of "Above Average" or "Excellent" to a selection of key NFS courses.
3. At least 80% of graduating students will agree with the statement, "I feel that NFS components of my program have well prepared me for post-graduation plans."

### Results and Summary of Assessment

1. One Human Nutrition major received less than a 'C' in an NFS class.
2. a. Over 94% of students agreed or strongly agreed that the quality of NFS-related course offerings were appropriate. Only 67.6% agreed or strongly agreed that the availability (time of day that classes were offered) was appropriate while only 70.3% agreed or strongly agreed that the availability (classes were not full) was appropriate. Over 78% of students agreed that the diversity of NFS-related course offerings and lab experiences in my degree program were appropriate.  
b. All NFS classes were rated as "Above Average" or "Excellent" by at least 70% of graduating students. All but two classes were so rated by over 90% of students.
3. Nearly 90% of graduating students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I feel the NFS components of my program have well-prepared me for post-graduation plans."

### Use of Results

1. Continue what we are doing.
2. a. The quality of course offerings exceeds criteria but we need to consider adding more sections of classes so that students feel that they can get into needed classes. There are three classes and two labs which seem to be a problem (full when there are still students who need the class). We either need to improve advising so students know when to register and take the courses or offer more sections of these classes.  
b. Exceeds criteria; continue the process. Evaluate possible changes to one course that 2 students rated as "Below Average" or "Poor."
3. Exceeds criteria; continue the process.