

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
Agriculture and Nutrition Science Department
Academic Outcomes Assessment Plan
Academic Year 2008-2009

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; AAS in Equine Studies; 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

Use of Results

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

Use of Results

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.
 - 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

Use of Results