

Cover Sheet for Assessment Plans

Directions: Please complete a separate cover sheet for each degree program (e.g., Associates – Doctorate). Feel free to make copies of this sheet if needed. Those graduate programs with an integrated master's and doctoral program may submit one cover sheet. The department head and respective dean are to sign before the plans are submitted to the Provost.

Department / Unit: Agricultural Economics

Title and Level of Academic Program: Agricultural Economics, M.S. and Ph.D.

When submitting an Assessment Plan, please check and indicate when the faculty endorsed the plan.

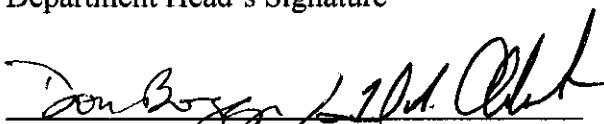
Faculty have met, reviewed, and endorsed the Assessment Plans being submitted for this degree program.

Date of Endorsement:


5/23/2005


Department Head's Signature

22 Aug 2005
Date


College Dean's Signature
(Required for Undergraduate Programs)

8-23-05
Date


Dean of the Graduate School's Signature
(Required for Graduate Degree Programs)

8/29/05
Date

November 1, 2004: Assessment plans are to be sent to the respective Dean
November 29, 2004: Relevant materials are to be sent from the Deans to the Provost

Department: Agricultural Economics

Evaluative Rubric for Degree Program Assessment Plans

Degree Program Title: MS and PhD Agricultural Economics

Action Decided by the College Assessment Review Committee (CARC):

Date of Decision: 8-16-2005

Decision (check one):

Revision Needed (*see first feedback section below*)

Assessment Plans Approved

Feedback on immediate actions that are needed before approval:

Recommendations and feedback for the future (e.g., reporting assessment activities and results):

The program appears to have addressed or clarified questions raised by the committee.

**Revised Template for
Assessment Plans for Student Learning Outcomes
Kansas State University**

- Check the box if your program's student learning outcomes have been modified since November 2003. If so, please email the revised outcomes (apr@ksu.edu) or attach a hard copy to this document.

A. College, Department, and Date of this Submission

College: Agriculture
Department: Agricultural Economics
Date of Submission: August 17, 2004

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

Ted Schroeder

C. Program – degree, minor, or certification

Ph.D. Agricultural Economics

D. Assessment Plans for the Student Learning Outcome(s) that will be addressed in the Next Three Years

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

**Student Learning Outcomes:
Agricultural Economics Ph.D. Program**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how to use advanced microeconomic theory and concepts to set up and analyze economic problems and implications.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how to use contemporary macroeconomic theory and concepts to set up and analyze economic problems and implications.
3. The ability to identify, summarize, interpret, and critique relevant scholarly literature.

4. Demonstrate the ability to identify important research problems and formulate well-defined research objectives (e.g., testable hypotheses).
5. Identify the most appropriate technique from a comprehensive array of available quantitative methods and apply the tool to accomplish research objectives.
6. Effectively use written and verbal communication skills to present economic concepts and analyses.
7. Understand features of agriculture (e.g., inherent risk, institutions, unique government policies, and cultural importance of food) that make it unique for applications of economic principles.
8. Practice highest levels of professional conduct (e.g., in professional activities take responsibility, be accountable, show integrity, have strong ethics, and respect diversity).

During the next three years the microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts (learning outcomes 1 and 2) will be assessed for all students that complete the necessary coursework and prelim examinations in these areas.

The identified student learning outcomes in this assessment plan address the following University-wide Student Learning Outcomes (check all that apply):

- under grad. jobs* {
- Knowledge Critical Thinking Communication Diversity
 - Academic and Professional Integrity
 - At this point in time, at least one of the selected learning outcomes is conceptually different from the university's learning outcomes (e.g., more specific to the program).

2. How will the learning outcome(s) be assessed? Who will be assessed?

Assessment will be made based upon grades students receive in Econ 735, Econ 940, Econ 945 and their score on the microeconomics qualifying exam for learning objective 1.

Assessment will be made based upon grades students receive in Econ 805 and Econ 905 and their score on the macroeconomics qualifying exam for learning objective 2.

3. When will this outcome be assessed? When will the results of the assessment(s) be discussed?

These results will be tabulated at the end of each prelim examination (administered in January and August each year). After each prelim exam is graded, we will compile the course grades and associated test results for each student and assess correlations. Because so few students are involved in this program, obtaining statistical reliability and confidence in the results will likely take several years of data analysis.

Time line:

Years 1-3: collect data on student performances in relevant courses as identified in attached table 1.

Year 1-3: collect data on student performances on associated preliminary examinations related to SLO 1) and 2).

Year 3: Assess performance and determine where strengths and weaknesses relative to SLO are present.

4. What is the unit's plan for improving students' learning?

Several measures can be taken to improve student performance and learning. If students' performances on prelim exams are related to coursework performance, first focus will be on improving student understanding of coursework material. Ph.D. students are expected to take considerable responsibility in accomplishing the required learning objectives. First attempts will be to make students understand this and help provide them the resource materials and ways to find the resource materials that they need to know to be successful in these learning outcomes. This would include providing textbooks and other reference materials that they should study and practice to better learn the material. In addition study groups can help students teach each other. Study groups will be encouraged and facilities and time for organized study groups will be provided.

Table 1. Ag. Econ. Ph.D. Learning Outcomes and Associated Activities

Ph.D Ag Economics													
	ECON 735	ECON 940	ECON 945	MICRO PRELIM	ECON 805	ECON 905	MACRO PRELIM	STAT 770	ECON 930	AGEC 901	AGEC 936	AGEC 905	AGEC 923
Learning Outcome													
1. Micro concepts	a	a	a	b						a	a	a	a
2. Macro concepts					a	a	b						
3. Literature										c		c	c
4. Problem Forming				b			b			a		a	a
5. Quantitative	a							a	a		a	a	a
6. Communication										c			
7. Institutions										d	d	d	d
8. Professionalism	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e

Learning Outcome	AGECON PRELIM	Dissertation Proposal	Conducting Dissertation	Dissertation Defense	Presenting Seminars	Presenting Professional Papers	Publishing	Teaching
1. Micro concepts	b							
2. Macro concepts								
3. Literature	b	c	c	c	c	c	c	
4. Problem Forming	b							
5. Quantitative	b							
6. Communication	b	c	c	c	c	c	c	
7. Institutions	b	d	d	d	d	d	d	d
8. Professionalism	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e

a=measured by course grade. Expect at least 90% of students to master subject matter to obtain a B or better in these courses.
 b=measured by student's ability to pass prelim. Expect at least 80% of students to pass exam on first or second attempt.
 c=measured by student's ability to complete this is term projects or other written activities. Expect at least 90% of students to earn a B or better on term papers and similar level of competency in rela
 d=measured by student's exposure to agricultural economics institutions and unique events. Expect all students to be exposed.
 e=measured by student's exposure to professionalism. Expect all students to be exposed.