Degree Program
Assessment of Student Learning Plan
Kansas State University

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

A. College, Department, and Date

College: College of Agriculture
Department: Department of Agronomy
Date: November 5, 2004

B. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plans

Mickey Ransom, Professor, Assistant Head for Teaching
Mitch Tuinstra, Associate Professor
Loyd Stone, Professor
Jay Ham, Professor
Dallas Peterson, Professor
Allan Fritz, Associate Professor
Gerard Kluitenberg, Professor, Graduate Coordinator

C. Degree Program

Ph.D. in Agronomy

D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

1. Student Learning Outcome(s)

Of the 13 standard SLOs prescribed by our accrediting agency, our department will focus on the three following learning outcomes in our three-year assessment plan.

All students must be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge or understanding in one or more specialty areas of agronomy
- Ability to apply knowledge and skills of their profession to the design, analysis, and interpretation of research
- Ability to use different forms of communication to transfer knowledge to a variety of clientele, colleagues, and members of the community

Special rationale for selecting these learning outcomes (optional):

None

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

Program SLOs	University-wide SLOs (Graduate Programs)			Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	
1. Knowledge or understanding in one or more specialty areas of agronomy	X			
2. Ability to apply knowledge and skills of their profession to the design, analysis, and interpretation of research		X	X	
3. Ability to use different forms of communication to transfer knowledge to a variety of clientele, colleagues, and members of the community		X	X	

2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?

Learning outcomes	Measures			Who will be assessed?
	Direct	Indirect	Not sure	
1. Knowledge or understanding in one or more specialty areas of agronomy	Successful completion of the course program of study; pass preliminary examination.	Thorough written review of the scientific literature as part of the Ph.D. dissertation		All Ph.D. students that schedule a dissertation defense
2. Ability to apply knowledge and skills of their profession to the design, analysis, and interpretation of research	Successful preparation and defense of the thesis	Interaction with major professor and advising committee		All Ph.D. students that schedule a dissertation defense
3. Ability to use different forms of communication to transfer knowledge to a variety of clientele, colleagues, and members of the community	Defense of thesis project, completion of seminar requirements, and demonstrated proficiency in teaching/extension	Participation in professional meetings, graduate student organizations, and field day/extension meetings		All Ph.D. students that schedule a dissertation defense

3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Learning outcomes	Timetable to Assess Learning Outcomes			Baseline created?
	2005	2006	2007	
1. Knowledge or understanding in one or more specialty areas of agronomy	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	3-year baseline created after 2007
2. Ability to apply knowledge and skills of their profession to the design, analysis, and interpretation of research	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	3-year baseline created after 2007
3. Ability to use different forms of communication to transfer knowledge to a variety of clientele, colleagues, and members of the community	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	August following summer graduation	3-year baseline created after 2007

4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?

Learning outcomes	Improvement plan
1. Knowledge or understanding in one or more specialty areas of agronomy	If weaknesses are noted in student knowledge and training, the faculty will discuss the problems and seek a solution. Some potential solutions might involve development of more rigid program requirements or curriculum modification. Future assessments will be compared to the 3-year baseline to monitor improvement.
2. Ability to apply knowledge and skills of their profession to the design, analysis, and interpretation of research	If weaknesses are noted in student's ability to apply knowledge and skills to their thesis research area, the faculty will discuss the problems and seek a solution. Some potential solutions might involve the development of more rigid requirements for graduate faculty status or curriculum modification. Future assessments will be compared to the baseline to monitor improvement.
3. Ability to use different forms of communication to transfer knowledge to a variety of clientele, colleagues, and members of the community	If weaknesses are noted in student's ability to communicate effectively with a diverse array of clientele, the faculty will discuss the problems and seek a solution. Some potential solutions might involve the development of more extensive seminar requirements, mandatory participation in professional meetings, or the addition of teaching requirements. Future assessments will be compared to the baseline to monitor improvement.