

Student Outcomes Assessment Plan Division of Agricultural Education/Agricultural Operations Technology

The Division of Agricultural Education/Agricultural Operations Technology (AgEd/AOT) continually assesses student outcomes as a regular part of the division's endeavor to improve the quality and effectiveness of undergraduate and graduate educational programs, services, and experiences.

Majors

This initial outcomes assessment plan encompasses undergraduate majors offered in the Division, including the Agricultural Education major, with options in 1) Broadfield teaching and 2) Relations, and the Agricultural Operations Technology major. Additionally the assessment plan includes the Master of Science degree in Agricultural Education.

Primary Assessment Contact

Dr. Bob Gough, Division Head and Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Agriculture. 994-5744, regough@montana.edu.

Assessment Management Structure

We are in the process of filling a third faculty position to enhance our programs. The Division's administrative assistant will be responsible for collecting and compiling faculty input to document excellent recruitment, orientation, advising, and for preparing records for assessment activities of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Instructional program goals and assessment plans will be discussed and approved during biennial Division reviews by the entire AgEd/AOT faculty.

Degree Objectives

The Division is dedicated to providing degrees that serve the needs of all students and agricultural professionals through a dynamic and comprehensive program of rural leadership, technology, science and proven educational practices. The program is grounded in basic and applied research aimed at improving professional and technical skills in the realm of Montana agriculture. AgEd/AOT degrees provide students a strong background in agriculture by offering a variety of subject-matter areas needed to succeed in teaching, extension, and agricultural mechanics vocations.

Expected Competencies

Expected competencies for AgEd/AOT majors include mastering discipline-specific and interdisciplinary skills; good written and oral communication skills; analytical thinking,

problem-solving skills, and decision making skills; and the ability to determine and access relevant information sources, such as reference materials for subject-matter decision making.

Additional Goals

Division graduates will secure careers in agriculturally related fields with a 90%+ placement rate.

Plan for Gathering and Summarizing Data

The administrative assistant, division head, and faculty will jointly develop assessment instruments, summary evaluations, and records maintenance procedures. Graduating seniors will undergo an exit interview with the division head that probes their level of satisfaction with our instructional programs, our advising system, and the abilities and professionalism of our instructors. We also routinely document independently the effectiveness of our instructors by conducting in-depth reviews of their teaching at every level of retention, tenure, and promotion.

The division head, administrative assistant, and the faculty will undertake annual and ongoing analysis and interpretation of assessment data and regularly employ such data to improve our Outcomes Assessment Program. Faculty are strongly encouraged to implement assessment strategies into their courses.

Plan for Utilizing Data

Student outcomes assessment data will be shared, discussed, interpreted, and appropriate measures employed during routine Division faculty meetings. The faculty and division head jointly are responsible for setting instructional policies and for organizing, revising, and modifying curricula.