

Summary of the 2016-2017 Annual Progress Report on Assessment of Student Learning for the Department of Agronomy

Following a thorough review of the Agronomy undergraduate curriculum in 2016 and subsequent curriculum revisions, the Academic Assessment Subcommittee (a subcommittee of the Course and Curriculum Committee) reviewed the existing assessment plan and determined that developing a new plan was necessary. The new plan streamlines assessment activities, and focuses most assessment activities on three required courses: AGRON 101, AGRON 405, and AGRON 602. New assessment activities include pre- and post-tests, faculty-evaluation of student learning outcomes using rubrics during course projects, and results from national certification exams. Data will begin to be collected for the new assessment program for most student learning outcomes in 2018. Only one measure remained in place from the previous assessment plan – results from certification exams. This is used to assess student learning outcome 2: “Graduates from the Kansas State University Agronomy baccalaureate degree program will have demonstrated: learning, developing, and applying skills for the application of existing and emerging knowledge and technologies in Agronomy.” It was determined that for fall 2016 and spring 2017, K-State students taking both the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) international exam and the state exam far exceeded other examinees in regard to both overall passing rates and percent of questions answered correctly. Based on these results, it has been shown that the K-State Agronomy undergraduate program is successfully accomplishing student learning objective 2. Further, the program is preparing students for careers as agronomists, and is more effective at doing so than most other Agronomy and related educational programs at the state, national, and international level.