

# **M.S. in Agricultural Education and Communication Academic Assessment Plan 2012-2013**

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*University of  
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# 2012-2013 Academic Assessment Plan for M.S. in Agricultural Education and Communication

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

## A. Mission

The mission of the Agricultural Education and Communication graduate program is to prepare world-class agricultural education graduates via integrated teaching, research, and extension programs designed to instill the confidence and capacity to engage all aspects of the land-grant mission.

The Agricultural Education and Communication graduate program supports the missions of the college and university to serve the nation's and state's critical needs by contributing to a well-qualified and broadly diverse citizenry, leadership and workforce through graduate education and to expand our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses through graduate student research.

## B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	Summarize contemporary and foundational theory and research in the selected specialization.	Satisfactory completion of major project and final written examination or completion of thesis and defense. Evaluation will be done by a group of faculty utilizing a faculty-designed rubric.	Campus and Distance
Knowledge	Apply, analyze and synthesize content knowledge and evolving concepts and philosophies in the selected specialization to solve problems by identifying component parts, relationships and ideas.	Satisfactory completion of major project and final written examination or completion of thesis and defense. Evaluation will be done by a group of faculty utilizing a faculty-designed rubric.	Campus and Distance

Skills	Apply visual and nonvisual techniques in the use of instructional materials and methods.	Satisfactory completion of major project and final written examination or completion of thesis and defense. Evaluation will be done by a group of faculty utilizing a faculty-designed rubric.	Campus and Distance
Skills	Apply concepts and principles related to design, implementation and evaluation of formal and non-formal education and/or training and development programs.	Satisfactory completion of major project and final written examination or completion of thesis and defense. Evaluation will be done by a group of faculty utilizing a faculty-designed rubric.	Campus and Distance
Skills	Apply principles, practices and strategies for conducting behavioral research in agricultural and natural resource professions.	Satisfactory completion of major project and final written examination or completion of thesis and defense. Evaluation will be done by a group of faculty utilizing a faculty-designed rubric.	Campus and Distance
Professional Behavior	Display ethical behaviors, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, professional conduct and communication.	During the degree program, students adhere to the University of Florida's Honor Code. Observation by the faculty of professional behavior during class activities, seminars, research or project work, written examination or thesis defense, and participation in professional societies. These observations will be shared with the supervisory committee and evaluated based on a faculty-developed rubric.	Campus and Distance

### C. Research

Our M.S. thesis is a research and coursework program while the M.S. non-thesis program is primarily coursework with the expectation that students develop a project of at least statewide application. Our thesis students are expected to demonstrate a focused, short-term research effort and to write a coherent and well-synthesized thesis. Students are expected to produce a refereed journal article within one year of graduation. Students are prepared to become researchers, effective practitioners of research-based methods through close mentoring and training by their supervisors, members of their supervisory committee. Our department and faculty encourage (and may fund) travel to scientific meetings, ethics training, and professional development workshops offered by the Graduate School which all contribute to the professional development of our M.S. students.

### D. Assessment Timeline

M.S. in Agricultural Education and Communication      College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Assessment SLOs	Major Project and Exam or Thesis and Defense	Annual Evaluation
<b>Knowledge</b>		
#1	X	
#2	X	
<b>Skills</b>		
#3	X	
#4	X	
#5	X	
<b>Professional Behavior</b>		
#6	X	X

## E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

M.S. in Agricultural Education and Communication College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation: June-July, Annually

Program Modifications: Completed by August 15 of each year)

Dissemination: Completed by September 1 of each year)

SLOs	Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
<b>Knowledge</b>							
#1		X	X	X	X	X	X
#2		X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Skills</b>							
#3		X	X	X	X	X	X
#4		X	X	X	X	X	X
#5		X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Professional Behavior</b>							
#6		X	X	X	X	X	X

## F. Measurement Tools

Student Learning Outcomes are evaluated at various points in the student's academic career. All MS students receive an annual evaluation from the supervisory committee on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Further, the SLOs are assessed during the evaluation of project/written exam for non-thesis students and during the thesis defense for thesis students. The same rubric (provided) is used for these evaluations.

SLOs	Measurement Tool
<b>Knowledge</b>	
#1	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)
#2	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)
<b>Skills</b>	
#3	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)
#4	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)
#5	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)
<b>Professional Behavior</b>	
#6	Faculty Designed Rubric (see attached)

## G. Assessment Oversight

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