



Implementing the Program Assessment Plan for SMSU's Agribusiness Management Major

SMSU's Agriculture and Applied Economics faculty are currently implementing our curricular plan for program assessment in the Agribusiness Management (AGBU) Major.

One of our goals is to engage AGBU students in their own program assessment.

Our curriculum design includes two new 1-credit seminar courses that serve multiple purposes. Those two new courses are **AGBU 101** and **AGBU 495**. AGBU 101 is a course focused on career development and portfolio design. AGBU 495 is a course that emphasizes career readiness and portfolio assessment.

Here is the rationale for these two One-Credit courses:

- In our program assessment plan, SMSU's AGBU Major has **Six Program Goals**. Each Program Goal includes **Two Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)**. We are using AGBU 101 and AGBU 495 as vehicles for our AGBU Majors to understand our program goals and SLO's.
- We also needed a mechanism for our AGBU students to actively create and organize the work-products (papers, presentations, etc.) that serve as evidence of progress towards increased mastery in each of the goal areas. Our students purchase the *Live-Text electronic portfolio* in **AGBU 101**. They subsequently use the *Live-Text* portfolio to gather artifacts related to their SLO's as they work towards completion of their academic program. In **AGBU 495**, our students evaluate program performance based on portfolio content and interpretation.
- In the AGBU program, AGBU 495 is the course in our curriculum where we review and evaluate student progress for **communication, information literacy and critical thinking in the LEP goals**. The LEP-rubrics for these skill areas are incorporated into AGBU 495. Faculty, peer and self-evaluations are sources of input, and AGBU students are encouraged to advance their progress towards achieving program goals.

AGBU faculty gather data for program assessment in AGBU 101 and AGBU 495. We are now in a better position to "close the assessment loop" by measuring outcomes and making changes based on well-supported evidence of performance.

AGBU 101 - Seminar I: Career Development and Portfolio Design

Course Description

AGBU 101 is a required course offered for degree-seeking SMSU students majoring in Agribusiness Management (AGBU). The course should be taken early in the AGBU program as a freshman or as a transfer student. Every effort will be made to ensure that all agribusiness management students take AGBU 101 within their first full year of study at SMSU.

This course is designed to acquaint new students with the goals and student learning outcomes of SMSU's BS Degree in Agribusiness Management.

Students use this AGBU 101 to help identify career goals, relate those goals to their academic choices, and create *Live-Text* electronic program portfolios to assess progress in achieving the goals and student learning outcomes of the entire AGBU degree program.

Topics in AGBU 101 include: a) information literacy; b) planning a program of study; c) becoming knowledgeable of the goals and learning outcomes of SMSU's Liberal Education Program (LEP), d) creating an electronic portfolio design, and e) engaging in career development in Agribusiness. The course is also used to introduce AGBU students to the use of SMSU LEP Rubrics for performance evaluation.

This course is a prerequisite for AGBU 495, the senior-level portfolio seminar course for agribusiness management majors.

AGBU 495 - Seminar II: Career Readiness and Portfolio Assessment

Course Description

AGBU 495 is a required course for senior-level SMSU students majoring in Agribusiness Management (AGBU). To enter the course, AGBU students must have senior standing, and also must have completed the prerequisite course, AGBU 101.

AGBU 495 fulfills the requirement for a creating and using a portfolio assessment to evaluate a student's accomplishments in relation to the Goals and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's) associated with the completion of a BS Degree in AGBU. Agribusiness Management majors are expected to take AGBU 495 during the final semester (or in the final year) of their BS Degree in AGBU.

AGBU 495 is also the designated course in the Agribusiness Management Curriculum that satisfies SMSU's Liberal Education Program (LEP) requirement for a course that is focused on communication, critical thinking and information-literacy.

This course is an opportunity for graduating AGBU students to articulate and demonstrate their academic and related achievements during their entire program of study at SMSU.

In AGBU 495, senior agribusiness majors use the electronic *Live-Text* Portfolio as a primary vehicle to organize, interpret and display evidence of their levels of mastery within the AGBU Program Goals and SLO's.