



MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN B.S. HORTICULTURE

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the education and cultural needs, primarily of Southeast Louisiana, to disseminate knowledge and to facilitate lifelong learning through quality instruction, research and service in a safe, student-centered environment.

The Department of Biological Science's offering of a bachelor of science degree in Horticulture attempts to foster, among all the students, an appreciation of the scientific study of plants as it relates to the principles and practices of Horticulture. This study is oriented to stimulate the student's interest in all areas of Horticulture as they relate to the benefit of mankind as a food source or as an aesthetically pleasing part of our environment. An undergraduate major in Horticulture is offered as preparation for either graduate study or a career in any area of the Horticulture industry.

Goal 1

Students taking Horticulture courses will feel that they have had a quality educational experience.

A. Expected Outcome

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Horticulture will compare favorable in their knowledge of horticulture with those students and professionals graduating from similar institutions and subjected to the Louisiana Horticulture Commission requirements for professional licensing.

Assessment

Southeastern graduating horticulture majors will have an average total score on the Louisiana Horticulture Commission Horticulture Service Examination which meets or exceeds the passing requirement of the State of Louisiana for licensing purposes. Students will take Horticulture 450 (Horticulture Seminar) in their final year of study which will require them to pass the Horticulture Services Examination.

On the majority of the 24 criteria for teaching effectiveness judged by the SOT, the Horticulture faculty will rate at least equal to the faculty of the Biology department, the college and the university.

On the exit exam, students will rate Horticulture faculty quality equal or above average.

Results

For both the Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 Semester, the Horticulture faculty SOTs were at or above the department, college and university SOTs for all the judging criteria therefore meeting the goal for that semester.

For the academic year 2001-2002, 85.7% of the horticulture graduates rated overall quality of the Horticulture program satisfactory. 100% of the horticulture graduates rated the quality of the degree program satisfactory.

Goal 2

Graduating seniors will feel they were satisfied with the effectiveness of the Horticulture faculty as teachers, the quality of the instruction and the advising they received.

A. Expected Outcome

Students coming into the program are assigned specific advisors who

will follow their progress throughout the year. Advising will be done each semester for all horticulture majors and advisors will follow the the academic development of each student. Horticulture faculty will be effective in interacting and instructing horticulture students.

Assessment

Horticulture graduates will be satisfied with their advising and their Horticulture instruction based on the Southeastern Exit Survey.

Results

On the 2001-2002 Southeastern Exit Survey, all graduating Horticulture students were satisfied with the effectiveness of the faculty as teachers, the opportunities to interact with faculty outside of the class, interest shown by faculty in their academic development, quality of instruction in advanced courses and friendliness, the accessibility of their advisor, their advisor's concern for their academic goal and helpfulness of the Horticulture faculty.

Goal 3

Students graduating with a bachelor's degree in Horticulture will be qualified for graduate study in Horticulture or other plant based agricultural science and Horticulture faculty will encourage further educational opportunities

A. Expected Outcome

Horticulture majors will feel that they are prepared to attend graduate school.

Assessment

On the Undergraduate Alumni survey, Horticulture majors who plan to seek further educational opportunities will be satisfied with the instruction they received at Southeastern.

Results

In the 2001-2002 Southeastern Exit Survey, all Horticulture graduates were satisfied with the help and encouragement they received from Horticulture faculty with regards to further educational opportunities. 28.6% of Horticulture graduates indicated that they planned to go to graduate school immediately following graduating and 14.3%

planned

to obtain further education but not at the graduate level.

Goal 4

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Horticulture will be prepared for job interviews and job placement. Horticulture faculty will make graduating students aware of job opportunities.

A. Expected Outcome

Horticulture majors will have complete resume' prepared prior to graduating and will be ready for job interviews in the horticultural field. Available Horticulture job opportunities will be posted at the Horticulture Center information board.

Assessment

Students will take Horticulture 450 (Horticulture Seminar) in which they will be required to prepare a professional resume' and prepare for job interviews.

Horticulture graduates will feel very comfortable in requesting a letter of recommendation from Horticulture faculty.

Results

In the 2001-2002 Southeastern Exit Survey, all Horticulture graduates indicated that they were satisfied that they received encouragement from the Horticulture faculty with regard to finding employment in the Horticulture field.

Goal 5

Students majoring in Horticulture are exposed to the cultural differences and global impact of Horticulture.

A. Expected Outcome

Global horticulture will be introduced through discussions of past, present and future trends in horticulture in Horticulture 232, international contributions of new plant cultivars in Horticulture 328, exotic cultural productions of fruit and nut crops in Horticulture 410, the impact of different soil regiments throughout the world on their sustainability on production in Horticulture 301, and the discussion of plant origins and development in the commercial market in Horticulture 315 and 320.

Assessment

All Horticulture graduates will indicated they were satisfied in the global perspective of Horticulture courses.

Results

In the 2001-2002 Southeastern Exit Survey, all Horticulture graduates were satisfied in the global perspective of Horticulture courses.