

Agricultural Education, Communications, and Technology
AEED-MS Program Assessment Report 2018

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2. Department Mission

AECT prepares people with the technical expertise in agricultural science and technology-related disciplines with the human science skills necessary to provide transformational leadership in the agricultural industry and within their local communities. Specifically, we prepare educators for both formal and non-formal teaching roles in agriculture, communications specialists for diverse agriculturally related disciplines, agricultural technology managers, and rural community leaders.

3. AEED-MS Program Goals

- Develop technology transfer specialists with strong communication skills and problem solving abilities who are prepared to serve diverse populations.
- Stimulate intellectual capacity in students for integrating multi-disciplinary knowledge, technology and values.
- Enhance the leadership skills of future professionals in agriculture, food and natural resource careers.
- Produce graduates with broad technical skills in agricultural science and technology.

Key Expected Outcomes for Graduate Students, 2018

1. Students will apply critical thinking skills related to technical agriculture and technology transfer delivery systems.
2. Students will demonstrate advanced problem solving skills in a supporting area of agriculture, education, technology or communications.
3. Students will demonstrate written and oral communications skills.
4. Students will explain discipline-specific foundational philosophies and principles that undergird formal and non-formal educational delivery systems in agriculture, and develop their own personal philosophy of education.

4. Student Learning Outcome 1. Students will apply critical thinking skills related to technical agriculture and technology transfer delivery systems.

A. Assessment measure 1.

- Master's student theses and oral exams will be evaluated for evidence of the application of critical thinking to develop an approach to solving a specific research problem.
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B. Acceptable and Ideal Targets (not required for indirect measures)

- Minimum score for passing for each student is 60 out of 100 possible points

- Acceptable target: 70% of all AEED-MS students pass thesis defense
- Ideal target: 100% of all AEED-MS students score 70 or above on thesis defense

C. Key Personnel (who is responsible for the assessment of this measure)

- Each individual student's graduate committee chair (AECT graduate faculty)

D. Summary of Findings.

- 100% of all AEED-MS students passed their thesis defense with scores of 70% or higher, as assessed by the rubric.

E. Recommendations (not required for indirect measures)

This rubric will be further refined as its usefulness is evaluated over the coming year.

Student Learning Outcome 2. Students will demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills in a supporting area of agriculture, education, technology or communications.

• **Assessment measure 1.**

- Master's student theses and oral exams will be evaluated for expertise in problem solving related to a specific research problem.

• **Acceptable and Ideal Targets** (not required for indirect measures)

- 100% of AEED-MS thesis projects identify a professional problem to solve, which is clearly stated in the thesis document
- 100% of AEED-MS thesis projects create and demonstrate a research problem solving plan to propose a solution to the identified problem

• **Key Personnel** (who is responsible for the assessment of this measure)

- Each individual student's graduate committee chair (AECT graduate faculty)

• **Summary of Findings**

100% of matriculating AEED-MS students (8 of 8) passed their defenses, demonstrating success in applying problem-solving skills to solve a specific research problem or professional issue.

• **Recommendations** (not required for indirect measures)

The thesis evaluation rubric needs to be further refined to include more overt assessment of students' problem-solving skills.

5. Action Plan

Action for Outcomes 1 and 2: The AEED-MS assessment rubric will be refined so that it more overtly assesses students' oral and written communications skills, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving skills.

6. Supporting Attachments

- None