Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Resource Economics

Student Learning Objectives

- Knowledge and awareness of economic principles.
- Knowledge and awareness of quantitative techniques (mathematics and statistics).
- Knowledge and awareness of analysis of individual and public decision-making using a combination of microeconomic principles and quantitative techniques.
- Define, analyze and solve in a practical way evolving problems related to resource economics.
- Apply knowledge of economics, mathematics, statistics, and information technology to formulate recommendations on "big picture" issues such as the food system, allocation of natural resources like water and land, environmental policies, family economics, and community development.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Develop a knowledge base specific to their chosen option as well as an overview of the general field of Resource Economics.

Consumer and Family Economics

- Mediate between the consumer and various financial and business institutions.
- Apply their knowledge from a strong foundation in social and behavioral sciences and microeconomics to the areas of family financial management and consumer policy.

Food Marketing Economics

- Apply their knowledge of economics, marketing and business management to food marketing situations.
- Identify the role of economic markets and public policies in the transformation of agricultural commodities into value-added and convenient food products.

Managerial Economics in Food and Resource Industries

- Apply economic principles with an emphasis on linear programming, econometrics, forecasting, production economics and market demand analysis to business decision-making.
- Make wise choices to operate within a complex economy of business with an eye to responsible management of resources.

Natural Resource Economics

- Assist in public and private decisions about environmental and natural resource issues.
- Apply decision-making tools such as benefit-cost, risk-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis to the allocation, management and protection of our natural resources and the environment.

Assessment tools

- Indirect: in-house designed junior year survey; internship stakeholder feedback.
- Indirect, planned: Evaluation of Learning Outcomes 1-credit course; Course Learning Objective Mapping by students; collection of student comments on learning objectives; graduating senior focus groups and exit interviews.
- Direct, planned: Assessment of capstone projects; inviting stakeholders to participate in judging a competition displaying student learning.

Highlighted recent activities

- The Department is planning to conduct an intensive curriculum review in 2009-10. Changes to be explored include articulation of student learning objectives on course syllabi, developing opportunities for student feedback, developing direct measures.