

Learning Objectives

1. Apply focused and comprehensive knowledge Agricultural Extension Education through classroom instruction, research, and other innovative educational experiences.
2. Use original ideas and scholarly skills to contribute to the advancement of their field.
3. Develop and practice professional skills to integrate and communicate effectively with the scholarly community in agricultural extension and education settings.
4. Assume future leadership roles in disseminating and applying knowledge to address local and global societal needs.

Assessment Plan

1. Document the ability to deliver innovative and effective instruction measured by student peer-reviewed performances and student developed teaching strategy portfolios and performance rubrics (ASTE 6160; ASTE 6200; ASTE 6300).
2. Prepare and successfully defend a research proposal and thesis that significantly contributes to the basic or applied research agenda of agricultural extension and/or education (ASTE 6090, ASTE 6120, ASTE 6200, ASTE 6170, ASTE 6970).
3. Engage in weekly discussions that are part of all AEE required courses and demonstrate argumentation skills along with critical thinking ability by earning a 80% or above on discussion engagement rubrics. Students will complete academic writing assignments in required courses with an 80% or above proficiency on related rubrics and conduct peer-reviews using academic writing rubrics. Students will also prepare manuscript and/or poster based on their research for a journal or meeting as directed buy their committee.
4. Successfully complete administrative and leadership coursework (ASTE 6180, ASTE 6200) scoring at the 80% or above level indicating proficiency to assume leadership roles requiring critical thinking and problem solving.

Outcome Data

1. 100% of students performed at the 80% or higher competency level on the ability to deliver innovative and effective instruction (2015-2016 academic year).
2. 100% of students successfully defended their proposal and thesis meeting their scheduled graduation date (2015-2016 academic year).
3. 100% of students performed at the 80% or higher competency level on course engagement rubrics (2015-2016 academic year).
4. 100% of students performed at the 80% or higher competency level completing their administrative and leadership coursework (ASTE 6180, ASTE 6200) and scoring at the 80% or above level indicating proficiency to assume leadership roles (2015-2016 academic year).

Databased Decisions

Course delivery is varied to accommodate working professionals in the field who wish to retain full-time employment while pursuing a graduate degree. Fall and spring Semester Courses are broadcast to distance education sites in Utah or are online. Others, including summer courses, are offered in intensive workshop-type settings or as hybrid (online and workshop style) courses.

In 2015 the Agriculture and Extension Education (AEE) MS degree program became more specialized as the degree title changed from the previous title of Agricultural Systems Education. This change made the degree more visible to students seeking a graduate degree with a leadership and administration research-based focus. The education and authentic applied research emphasis provides students with the flexibility to select positions in both nonformal (Extension) and formal academic education settings. Applicants to the degree program doubled from three to six in the fall of 2016.

Based on student feedback concerning course content and the “differences” between courses, course syllabuses are being added to the website (2016) for every AEE course. This will enable students to make more informed decisions related to course load and the content they need to fulfil their degree goals. In addition, course objectives and assessment activities for each course will be available publicly on the course syllabi further documenting the type of required performance and competency assessments (peer-reviews, papers, proposals, portfolios, collaboration projects, curriculum development projects, course delivery projects, online tool demonstrations, discussions, tests, etc.) to meet the program objectives.