

**Agricultural Education, Communications, and 4-H Youth Development
Leadership and Service Option
Prepared by Penny Pennington**

Degree Program	Assessment Method	Number of Individuals Assessed		
		Summer '03	Fall '03	Spring '04
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Portfolio Submission #1 (Professional portfolio developed and submitted in AGED 3101)		8 students	5 students
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Portfolio Submission #2 (Professional portfolio revised and submitted in AGED 4203)		30 students	
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Portfolio Submission #3 (Professional portfolio enhanced by internship experience and submitted in AGED 4300)	19 students	2 students	7 students
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Cooperator's/Supervisor's Final Evaluation and University Coordinator's Visitation Record/Report	19 students		
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Internship Seminar (40-minute presentation addressing the student's internship experience)	18 students	2 students	7 students
AGED – Leadership and Service Option	Exit Interviews (Student's Final Evaluation of the Internship & LAS Internship Survey)	18 students		

Analysis and Findings

1) Cooperator's/Supervisor's Final Evaluation (Intern's Performance) – Interns are evaluated by their respective supervisors. The mean rating achieved by the 2003 summer and fall interns (18) was "Excellent" in all areas evaluated (ability to perform without supervision, willingness to accept instruction, relationships with other employees, dependability and reliability, thoroughness in completing tasks assigned, personal appearance, enthusiasm and courtesy). All but one student received the grade of "A" for their internship performance in AGED 4300. The Cooperator's/ Supervisor's and University Coordinator's observation/input together are used to assess the intern's career and professional readiness.

2) Exit Interviews (Internship Completers) – During the summer 2003 internship seminar 18 participants completed the "Students Final Evaluation of the Internship" and the "Internship Survey" as an exit interview, which provides information about the quality of the internship, interest of their supervisor in the program and the intern, ability to teach, quality of instruction provided, etc. Fourteen interns indicated their internship experience was "very satisfying" while four ranked their internship as "satisfying."

3) Internship Seminar – The 30-minute seminar presentation of the internship experience involved faculty assessment of professional dress, oral presentation skills, PowerPoint/slide presentation, portfolio, and overall evaluation. Student retention of material covered in AGED 4203 (Professional Development in Agriculture) was quite evident in the professionalism, creativity and responses to questions from the audience during the seminar presentation. All of the seminar presentations merited an overall evaluation of "excellent." Portfolios were evaluated on the basis of creativity, originality, completeness and neatness. Completeness and writing skills seem to be the most evident deficiencies observed. The value of the portfolio served as documentation for the students' readiness in becoming an agricultural professional.

Uses of Assessment Results

1) Cooperator's/Supervisor's Final Evaluation (Intern's Performance) – Assessment areas with weak evaluations will receive special emphasis/instruction in the next class (AGED 4203 – Professional Development in Agriculture).

2) Exit Interviews (Internship Completers) – Faculty will use exit interview information to update, improve and/or expand course offerings. Pertinent information included: the overall importance of AGED 4203 to professional development, the need to continue offering student presentation opportunities, the overall importance of leadership curriculum, and the importance of additional agricultural coursework in support of future career goals. Additionally, AGED 4203 – Professional Development in Agriculture was moved from the spring semester to the fall semester in 2001-02. Based upon student feedback gained from the exit interviews a second session of AGED 4203 will be added to the spring semester to accommodate students transferring late to the program.

3) Internship Seminar – Student input/feedback from LAS Internship Survey, faculty observation and evaluation of the Seminar Presentation and the intern's portfolios are used to improve content and help students achieve program objectives.