**Expected Outcomes: Subject Matter Competence**

When students complete their degree they will have a thorough understanding of subject matter in their selected career option.

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** Final Exams

Survey questions are given to committee members and students after the final exam is completed.

**Findings:**

Five students completed the MS degree in 11/12. Everyone passed the final oral exam. On survey of committee members – results were basically the same as previous year in that members of the advisory committee thought the programs were reasonable and provided the students with good understanding of the subject matter. Information sheets completed by the students supported this assessment.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Not used in 2012

**Additional comments:**

none

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**Expected Outcomes: Professional Competency**

When students complete their degree they will be well prepared for entrance into the work force.

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** Exit Information

Written and informal information is collected by the department head prior to graduation.

**Findings:**

For the 5 students completing the MS program, 4 entered the work force with the type positions they had trained for and 1 entered a PhD program with funded assistantship at VPI. Some research programs have transitioned away from traditional agronomy towards some of the allied fields. Students in these fields indicated that some of our traditional requirements were not necessarily in their best interest.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

The traditional course requirements were discussed at a recent faculty meeting and some of the faculty agreed that traditional requirements were not necessarily in the best interest of some students. The Graduate Faculty Curriculum Committee agreed to provide a more detail assessment of the issue and report back to the entire graduate faculty with more information and recommendations.

**Additional comments:**

Tuesday, February 05, 2013, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
Communication Skills

How did you use findings for improvement?

Major Professors will continue to spend more time with students when preparing seminars. We will continue to monitor verbal communication skills for international students and continue to insist on classes for English as a “Second Language” for those who need it.

Additional comments:

None

Informal Interactions

How did you use findings for improvement?

See additional comments

Additional comments:

The CASIS building should be completed by December of 2013. This completion will provide better lab facilities for the basic science programs. Funchess Hall renovation or replacement is high on the construction list for AU and action which should be started within the next 24 months should solve our space issues.