

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-015-156

**MS IN AGRICULTURE, OPTION IN NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE FOR
SEMESTERS**

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 04/07/2016

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 04/27/2016

Academic Senate

Date: 05/04/2016
First Reading

BACKGROUND: The Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science has put forward a referral for Master of Science in Agriculture, option in Nutrition and Food Science for semesters. This is a revised program.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Deans
Associate Deans
Department Chairs
All Faculty

DISCUSSION:

Before reaching the Academic Programs Committee, this program was reviewed by the College Curriculum Committee in the College of Agriculture as well as the Dean of Agriculture and the Office of Academic Programs. All concerns raised at those levels were addressed. The Academic Programs Committee then conducted campus-wide consultation, as well as its own review of the program. With the exception of the following comment from Curriculog, no concerns were raised.

“The evaluation of the information collected for its assessment program needs work: A rubric for evaluating how and how well students engaged and met or surpassed the learning outcomes under review would make the evaluation process more consistent and allow comparisons of different cohorts. The other materials are sound.” (By Dr. Dan Lewis)

In consideration of this issue, the AP Committee contacted Dr. Lisa Kessler, Associate Dean in the College of Agriculture, who gave the following response:

A student learning outcome assessment rubric, which will evaluate student engagement and how well students met or surpassed the learning outcomes will be created by the HNFS graduate program faculty. The College of Agriculture will continue to work together to improve the assessment methods for this program.

The AP Committee notes that the concerns about assessment were raised and the College of Agriculture has responded that the assessment tools will be developed. Assessment is an area where University practices are likely to undergo change in the coming years, so it is likely that most or all programs going through this review process will need to re-evaluate and revise their assessment plans within a few years. Consequently, while it is appropriate to work on improving assessment plans, the AP Committee's most immediate concern is the academic soundness of the program's basic structure, for which no concerns have been raised.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the semester program Master of Science in Agriculture, option in Nutrition and Food Science.