

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*University Curriculum Committee*

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TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate  
FROM: Carlyn Morenus, Chair, University Curriculum Committee  
RE: Executive Summary of Proposed New and Deleted Sequences within the Major in Agriculture

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposals to add six new sequences: (1) Agriculture Communication and Leadership, (2) Agronomy Management, (3) Animal Industry Management, (4) Animal Science, (5) Crop and Soil Science, and (6) Pre-Veterinary Medicine to the Major in Agriculture. The UCC also approved the deletion of three sequences from the major: Agriculture Industry Management, Agriculture Science, and General Agriculture.

Last year, the Department of Agriculture gained approval to delete the Major in Agribusiness and to place all sequences within one major, the Major in Agriculture. They are now proposing to increase the number of sequences within the major to ten, which is an increase of three sequences from the current curriculum. Some key programmatic areas will be elevated from the concentration level to sequence level, making them more visible with the anticipated result being enhancement of recruitment of high quality students.

The following concentrations will be replaced with a corresponding sequence:

- Agronomy concentration, currently an option in the Agriculture Industry Management Sequence, will become the Agronomy Management Sequence
- Animal Industry Management concentration, currently an option in the Agriculture Industry Management Sequence, will become the Animal Industry Management Sequence.
- Agronomy concentration, currently an option in the Agricultural Science Sequence, will become Crop and Soil Science Sequence.
- Animal Science concentration, currently an option in the Agricultural Science Sequence, will become Animal Science Sequence.

Portions of the two deleted sequences, Agriculture Industry Management and Agricultural Science, will be contained within five of the new sequences. The Department of Agriculture provided the following summary of the new proposed sequences:

- The Agronomy Management Sequence is designed for students interested in obtaining an applied agronomy focus with less emphasis in basic science. These students should be prepared for careers in agribusiness management specifically related to sales of agronomic products and crop scouting, and careers with local, state, and federal agencies including such organizations as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Extension Services, and the Natural Resource Conservation Services.
- The Animal Science Sequence is designed for students who expect to enter graduate school and for students interested in agribusiness careers with a research focus. These students should be prepared for careers as nutrition consultants, pharmaceutical consultants or for entry into graduate school for eventual positions in higher education or industry requiring Master's or Doctoral degrees.

- The Animal Industry Management Sequence is designed for students who are interested in obtaining an applied animal science focus with less emphasis in basic science. These students should be prepared for careers in agribusiness management specifically related to the animal science industry.
- The Crop and Soil Science Sequence is designed for students who expect to enter graduate school and for students interested in agribusiness careers with a research focus. These students should be prepared for careers in plant genetics, plant breeding, soil science or for entry into graduate school for eventual positions in higher education or industry requiring Master’s or Doctoral degrees.
- The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Sequence does not replace an existing concentration. This sequence is specifically designed to prepare students for entry into schools or colleges of veterinary medicine. These students will have completed a set of courses commonly required for entry into veterinary schools/colleges.
- A sixth sequence, Agriculture Communication and Leadership, combines Agriculture courses with a minor in Communication. The program prepares students for occupations with newspapers, magazines, radio stations, state extension services, and government agencies. Previously, students with an interest in agriculture communications were advised to major in communications and minor in agriculture. The proposed sequence provides a stronger agriculture component than was previously available.
- As a result of the proposed additions and changes, the ten sequences in the major will share five common learning outcomes and core objectives that provide commonality to a single major. These common outcomes insure that the students who successfully complete any one of the ten sequences will be able to:
  - List and describe factual knowledge related to Agriculture including terminology, classification, methods and trends;
  - List and describe fundamental principles, generalizations and theories that define Agriculture;
  - Apply fundamental Agriculture principles, generalizations and theories to problem solving, critical thinking and decision making activities required by the specified Agriculture disciplines;
  - Work with others in a team setting to solve problems and answer questions related to Agriculture; and
  - Identify resources required to answer Agriculture related questions or to solve Agriculture related problems.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposals to add and delete the sequences. The Department of Agriculture provided clear and concise explanations within their proposal package. The changes proposed reflect a program review process with input from industry advisory people, and the change to the five new sequences is a “nice improvement.” Along with the new and deleted sequences, Agriculture included several course revisions and deletions to update their curriculum. They also revised the Agribusiness Sequence and the Food Industry Management Sequence, reducing the number of hours required and creating more flexibility in terms of course selection.

Attachments