APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Agriculture and Life Sciences **Department:** School of Human Sciences

Contact Person: Jessica Benson **Mail Stop:** 9745 **E-mail:** jbenson@humansci.msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 3/1/2024

Current Degree Program Name: Bachelor of Science

Current Major: Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications

Current Concentration(s): Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership, and Agricultural Communications

Current Campus(es): Starkville

New Degree Program Name: Bachelor of Science **Effective Date:** 06/01/24

Semester	Year
Fall	2024

Proposed Major: Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications

Proposed Concentration(s): Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership (Two Tracks: Organizational or Industry), and Agricultural Communications

Proposed Campus(es): Starkville

Summary of Proposed Changes:

1). Create two tracks for Agricultural Leadership concentrations.
2). Updated Major Core and concentration course requirements.

Approved: **Date:**

Dr. Teresa Gammill Digitally signed by Dr. Teresa Gammill Date: 2024.04.12 10:30:23 -05'00'

Department Head

4/15/2024

Director of Academic Quality

Will Davis Digitally signed by Will Davis Date: 2024.04.15 17:52:04 -05'00'

Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee

4/16/24

Dean of College or School

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)

Chair, Deans Council

Catalog Description
Current Catalog Description

BS in Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications

Academic Coordinator: Bailey Poindexter
Office: (662) 325-7703

The Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications major equips graduates with the ability to inform and engage people about agricultural information and issues. This is achieved through curriculum emphasizing practical knowledge and hands-on experiences in teaching, leadership, and communications, in addition to well-rounded, individualized coursework in agricultural topics. Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications (AELC) graduates may become involved in a variety of occupations in agricultural business and industry, education, production, extension, and communications. The major requires 124 semester hours as shown in the catalog description. Students may choose to complete a concentration in Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership, or Agricultural Communications. The AELC concentrations are achieved by completing a combination of *59* hours of specified courses and restricted agriculture electives as approved by an AELC advisor. All students must earn at least a C in all AELC courses.

The Agricultural Education concentration prepares individuals seeking careers as an agricultural education teacher. *The Agricultural Leadership concentration develops students' skills for employment with the Extension service or a variety of agricultural industry careers.* The Agricultural Communications concentration prepare students to communicate and advocate for agriculture and the industry.

Students desiring to receive certification to teach in secondary agricultural education will need to complete certification requirements. *The Agricultural Education teacher education program at Mississippi State University is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP).* Students must conform to the policies on teacher education, as explained under "Teacher Licensure" elsewhere in this catalog.

Graduates will have knowledge of

1. principles of teaching and learning;
2. principles and theories of leadership;
3. principles of professional communication; and
4. basic agricultural sciences.

Graduates will be able to

1. plan and conduct agricultural education programs in classroom and community settings;
2. demonstrate professional oral, written, and digital communication strategies to various audiences;
3. be proficient in computer applications; and
4. be readily prepared for employment.

In capstone courses, students produce and present reports that demonstrate the performance learning *objectives*. In addition to faculty assessment, external assessors from other departments and industry observe presentations and provide feedback.

Proposed Catalog Description

BS in Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications

Academic Coordinator: Bailey Poindexter
Office: (662) 325-7703

The Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications major equips graduates with the ability to inform and engage people about agricultural information and issues. This is achieved through curriculum emphasizing practical knowledge and hands-on experiences in teaching, leadership, and communications, in addition to well-rounded, individualized coursework in agricultural topics. Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications (AELC) graduates may become involved in a variety of occupations in agricultural business and industry, education, production, extension, and communications. The major requires 124 semester hours as shown in the catalog description. Students may choose to complete a concentration in Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership, or Agricultural Communications. The AELC concentrations are achieved by completing a combination of **70** hours of specified courses and restricted agriculture electives as approved by an AELC advisor. All students must earn at least a C in all AELC courses.

The Agricultural Education concentration prepares individuals seeking careers as an agricultural education teacher. **The Agricultural Leadership concentration has two tracks. The Organizational Leadership track develops students' skills for employment within agricultural organizations, commodity groups, in policy, and Extension service or similar community-based or governmental organizations, while the Industry Leadership track prepares students for a variety of agricultural production or industry careers that focus on operation with integrated leadership skills.** The Agricultural Communications concentration prepares students to communicate and advocate for agriculture and industry.

Students desiring to receive certification to teach in secondary agricultural education will need to complete certification requirements. **The Agricultural Education teacher education program at Mississippi State University follows the framework set by the Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) and is formally recognized as a teacher preparation program by the Mississippi Department of Education.** Students must conform to the policies on teacher education, as explained under "Teacher Licensure" elsewhere in this catalog.

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DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to make modifications to an existing undergraduate degree outline. If any General Education (Core) course is acceptable in the category, please indicate by saying "any Gen Ed course". There is no need to type in the whole list. All deleted courses and information should be shown in italics and all new courses and information in bold. Include the course prefix, number, and title in both columns. Expand this table as needed.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications	Degree: Bachelor of Science Major: Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications
The Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications major equips graduates with the ability to inform and engage people about agricultural information and issues. This is achieved through curriculum emphasizing practical knowledge and hands-on experiences in teaching, leadership, and communications, in addition to well-rounded, individualized coursework in agricultural topics. Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications (AELC) graduates may become involved in a variety of occupations in agricultural business and industry, education, production, extension, and communications. The major requires 124 semester hours as shown in the catalog description. Students may choose to complete a concentration in Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership, or Agricultural Communications. The AELC concentrations are achieved by completing a combination of *59* hours of specified courses and restricted agriculture electives as approved by an AELC advisor. All students must earn at least a C in all AELC courses. The Agricultural Education concentration prepares individuals seeking careers as an agricultural education teacher. The Agricultural Leadership concentration develops students' skills for employment with the Extension service or a variety of agricultural industry careers. The Agricultural Communications concentration prepare students to communicate and advocate for agriculture and the industry. Students desiring to receive certification to teach in secondary agricultural education will need to complete certification requirements. *The Agricultural Education teacher education program at Mississippi State University is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of*	The Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications major equips graduates with the ability to inform and engage people about agricultural information and issues. This is achieved through curriculum emphasizing practical knowledge and hands-on experiences in teaching, leadership, and communications, in addition to well-rounded, individualized coursework in agricultural topics. Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications (AELC) graduates may become involved in a variety of occupations in agricultural business and industry, education, production, extension, and communications. The major requires 124 semester hours as shown in the catalog description. Students may choose to complete a concentration in Agricultural Education, Agricultural Leadership, or Agricultural Communications. The AELC concentrations are achieved by completing a combination of **70** hours of specified courses and restricted agriculture electives as approved by an AELC advisor. All students must earn at least a C in all AELC courses. The Agricultural Education concentration prepares individuals seeking careers as an agricultural education teacher. **The Agricultural Leadership concentration has two tracks. The Organizational Leadership track develops students' skills for employment with the Extension service or similar community-based or governmental organizations, while the Industry Leadership track prepares students for a variety of agricultural production or industry careers.** The Agricultural Communications concentration prepares students to communicate and advocate for agriculture and the industry.

Education Preparation (CAEP). Students must conform to the policies on teacher education, as explained under "Teacher Licensure" elsewhere in this catalog. Graduates will have knowledge of 1. principles of teaching and learning; 2. principles and theories of leadership; 3. principles of professional communication; and 4. basic agricultural sciences. Graduates will be able to 1. plan and conduct agricultural education programs in classroom and community settings; 2. demonstrate professional oral, written, and digital communication strategies to various audiences: 3. be proficient in computer applications; and 4. be readily prepared for employment. In capstone courses, students produce and present reports that demonstrate the performance learning *objectives*. In addition to faculty assessment, external assessors from other departments and industry observe presentations and provide feedback.	Students desiring to receive certification to teach in secondary agricultural education will need to complete certification requirements. **The Agricultural Education teacher education program at Mississippi State University follows the framework set by the Council for Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP) and is formally recognized as a teacher preparation program by the Mississippi Department of Education.** Students must conform to the policies on teacher education, as explained under "Teacher Licensure" elsewhere in this catalog. Graduates will have knowledge of 1. principles of teaching and learning; 2. principles and theories of leadership; 3. principles of professional communication; and 4. basic agricultural sciences. Graduates will be able to 1. plan and conduct agricultural education programs in classroom and community settings; 2. demonstrate professional oral, written, and digital communication strategies to various audiences: 3. be proficient in computer applications; and 4. be readily prepared for employment. In capstone courses, students produce and present reports that demonstrate the performance learning **outcomes.** In addition to faculty assessment, external assessors from other departments and industry observe presentations and provide feedback.

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours *37*	PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours **34**
English *(Ex: EN 1103 English Comp I): Any Gen Ed Course*	6	English **EN 1103 English Comp I** **EN 1113 English Comp II**	6
Fine Arts (General Education): Any Gen Ed Course	3	Fine Arts (General Education): Any Gen Ed Course	3
Natural Sciences (2 labs required from Gen Ed): BIO 1134 BIO 1144 or PSS 1313	7-8	Natural Sciences (2 labs required from Gen Ed): BIO 1134 BIO 1144 or PSS 1313	7-8
Extra Science (if appropriate)	3	Extra Science (if appropriate)	3

CH 1043 or CH 1213		CH 1043 or CH 1053 or CH 1213	
Math (General Education): *MA 1313* *MA 1323 or MA/ST 2113*	*6*	Math (General Education): **Any Gen Ed Course**	**3**
Humanities (General Education): Any Gen Ed Course	6	Humanities (General Education): Any Gen Ed Course	6
Social/Behavioral Sciences (Gen Ed): AEC 2713 or EC 2113 or EC 2123 See concentration for second Social/Behavioral Science course.	6	Social/Behavioral Sciences (Gen Ed): AEC 2713 or EC 2113 or EC 2123 See concentration for second Social/Behavioral Science course	6
Major Core Courses	*28*	Major Core Courses	**20**
AELC *2413* Orientation to Agricultural Education, Leadership, & Communications AELC 3333 Professional Presentations in Agriculture and Life Sciences *AELC 3423 Graphic Design in Agriculture and Life Sciences* AELC 3803 Foundations of Leadership in Agricultural and Life Sciences *AELC 4223 Communications Strategies in Agriculture and Life Sciences* *AELC 4403 Development of Youth Programs* AELC 4424 Teaching Methods in Agriculture and Human Sciences AELC 4803 Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Life Sciences Oral Communication Requirement AELC 3333 Professional Presentations in ALS or AELC 4424 Teaching Methods in Agriculture and Human Sciences Writing Requirement AELC 3203 Professional Writing in ANR and HS Computer Literacy *AELC 4203 Applications of Computer Technology in AELC*		AELC **2211** Orientation to Agricultural Education, Leadership, & Communications AELC 3333 Professional Presentations in Agriculture and Life Sciences AELC 3803 Foundations of Leadership in Agricultural and Life Sciences AELC 4424 Teaching Methods in Agriculture and Human Sciences AELC 4803 Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Life Sciences Oral Communication Requirement AELC 3333 Professional Presentations in ALS or AELC 4424 Teaching Methods in Agriculture and Human Sciences Writing Requirement AELC 3203 Professional Writing in ANR and HS Computer Literacy **AELC 2203 Applications of Computer Technology to Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications**	

Agricultural Education Concentration		Agricultural Education Concentration	
Concentration Courses AELC 3013 Field Experience in Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications AELC 4613 Teaching Agricultural Mechanics AELC 4723 Pedagogy of Agriscience Programs AELC 4873 Professional Seminar in Agricultural Education AELC 4886 Teaching Internship AELC 4896 Teaching Internship	*46-47*	Concentration Courses **AELC 2212 Foundations of Agricultural Education** **AELC 3423 Graphic Design in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4223 Communications Strategies in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4403 Development of Youth Programs** AELC 3013 Field Experience in Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications	**57-58**

ADX 3213 Individualizing Instruction for Exceptional Children PSY 1013 General Psychology ADS 1113 Animal Science ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory PSS 3303 Soils PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory FO 4513 Forestry and Conservation for Educators Restricted Animal Science Elective (Select one course from ADS 2102, ADS 2122, ADS 3142, ADS 3214, ADS 3223, ADS 3312, ADS 3314, ADS 3812, ADS 4113, ADS 4212, ADS 4223, ADS 4232, ADS 4323, ADS 4813, PO 3313) Restricted Plant Science Elective (Select one course from PSS 1113, PSS 2343, PSS 2423, PSS 3133, PSS 3923, PSS 4103, PSS 4123, PSS 4133, PSS 4613, FO 2113) Agriculture Electives *6-8 hours* Free Electives 6 hours		AELC 4613 Teaching Agricultural Mechanics AELC 4723 Pedagogy of Agriscience Programs AELC 4873 Professional Seminar in Agricultural Education AELC 4886 Teaching Internship AELC 4896 Teaching Internship ADX 3213 Individualizing Instruction for Exceptional Children PSY 1013 General Psychology ADS 1113 Animal Science ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory PSS 3303 Soils PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory FO 4513 Forestry and Conservation for Educators Restricted Animal Science Elective (Select one course from ADS 2102, ADS 2122, ADS 3142, ADS 3214, ADS 3223, ADS 3312, ADS 3314, ADS 3812, ADS 4113, ADS 4212, ADS 4223, ADS 4232, ADS 4323, ADS 4813, PO 3313) Restricted Plant Science Elective (Select one course from PSS 1113, PSS 2343, PSS 2423, PSS 3133, PSS 3923, PSS 4103, PSS 4123, PSS 4133, PSS 4613, FO 2113) Agriculture Electives **6-7 hours** Free Electives 6 hours	
Total Program Hours	124	Total Program Hours	124

Agricultural Leadership Concentration		Agricultural Leadership Concentration **Organizational Leadership Track**	
Concentration Courses PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics OR MGT 3823 Socially Responsible Leadership PSY 3623 Social Psychology OR PS 3013 Political Leadership CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR CO 3213 Small Group Communication OR CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology PS 2703 Introduction to Public Policy ADS 1113 Animal Science & ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory OR EPP 2213 Introduction to Insects OR PSS 3303 Soils & PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory AELC 3813 Team Leadership in AELC *AELC 3503 Internship in Agricultural Science and Leadership*	*24*	Concentration Courses **AELC 2222 Personal Leadership and Communications** **AELC 3423 Graphic Design in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4223 Communications Strategies in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4403 Development of Youth Programs** PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics OR MGT 3823 Socially Responsible Leadership PSY 3623 Social Psychology OR PS 3013 Political Leadership CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR CO 3213 Small Group Communication OR CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology PS 2703 Introduction to Public Policy	**35 - 36**

Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to career objective (see advisor for suggestions) *16 hours* Ag/Business/Management/Marketing/Communication Electives (includes all CALS 1000 level and above - ADS, AEC, AELC, PSS, ABE, WFA, FNH, LA, FO, PO, EPP; and MGT, MKT, CO, BL) *12 hours* Free Electives *6 hours*		ADS 1113 Animal Science & ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory OR EPP 2213 Introduction to Insects OR PSS 3303 Soils & PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory AELC 3813 Team Leadership in AELC **AELC 3503 Internship in Agricultural Leadership and Organizations** Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to career objective (see advisor for suggestions) **18 hours** Ag/Business/Management/Marketing/Communication Electives (includes all CALS 1000 level and above - ADS, AEC, AELC, PSS, ABE, WFA, FNH, LA, FO, PO, EPP; and MGT, MKT, CO, BL) **9 hours** Free Electives **7-8 hours**	
Total Program Hours	124	Total Program Hours	124

Agricultural Leadership Concentration		Agricultural Leadership Concentration **Industry Leadership Track**	
Concentration Courses PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics OR MGT 3823 Socially Responsible Leadership PSY 3623 Social Psychology OR PS 3013 Political Leadership *CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking OR* *CO 3213 Small Group Communication OR* *CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations* PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology PS 2703 Introduction to Public Policy *ADS 1113 Animal Science & ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory OR* *EPP 2213 Introduction to Insects OR* *PSS 3303 Soils & PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory* AELC 3813 Team Leadership in AELC *AELC 3503 Internship in Agricultural Science and Leadership* Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to career objective (see advisor for suggestions) *16 hours* Ag/Business/Management/Marketing/Communication Electives (includes all CALS 1000 level and above - ADS, AEC, AELC, PSS, ABE, WFA, FNH, LA, FO, PO, EPP; and MGT, MKT, CO, BL) *12 hours* Free Electives *6 hours*	*24*	Concentration Courses **AELC 2422 Personal Leadership and Communications** PHI 1123 Introduction to Ethics OR MGT 3823 Socially Responsible Leadership PSY 3623 Social Psychology OR PS 3013 Political Leadership PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology PS 2703 Introduction to Public Policy **Restricted Agricultural Science Elective (Select 7-8 hours from ADS 1113 & ADS 1121, EPP 2213, PSS 3303 & PSS 3301)** AELC 3813 Team Leadership in AELC **AELC 3403 Internship in Agricultural Leadership and Industry** Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to career objective (see advisor for suggestions) **32 hours** Ag/Business/Management/Marketing/Communication Electives (includes all CALS 1000 level and above - ADS, AEC, AELC, PSS, ABE, WFA, FNH, LA, FO, PO, EPP; and MGT, MKT, CO, BL) **9 hours** Free Electives **2-3 hours**	**27 - 28**

Total Program Hours	124	Total Program Hours	124

Agricultural Communications Concentration		Agricultural Communications Concentration	
AELC 3603 Internship – Agricultural Communications CO 1403 Intro to Mass Media CO 2333 TV Production CO 2413 Intro to New Writing and Reporting CO 3403 Photographic Communication CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations CO 3853 Public Relations Writing CO 3863 Public Relations Production PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology ADS 1113 Animal Science & ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory OR EPP 2213 Introduction to Insects OR PSS 3303 Soils & PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to agricultural communications (see advisor for suggestions) *22 hours* Free Electives *6 hours*	*30*	Concentration Courses **AELC 2422 Personal Leadership and Communications** **AELC 3423 Graphic Design in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4223 Communications Strategies in Agriculture and Life Sciences** **AELC 4403 Development of Youth Programs** AELC 3603 Internship – Agricultural Communications CO 1403 Intro to Mass Media CO 2333 TV Production CO 2413 Intro to New Writing and Reporting CO 3403 Photographic Communication CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations CO 3853 Public Relations Writing CO 3863 Public Relations Production PSY 1013 General Psychology OR PS 1113 American Government OR SO 1003 Intro to Sociology ADS 1113 Animal Science & ADS 1121 Animal Science Laboratory OR EPP 2213 Introduction to Insects OR PSS 3303 Soils & PSS 3301 Soils Laboratory Advisor-approved 3000-4000 level, focus area related to agricultural communications (see advisor for suggestions) **24 hours** Free Electives **4-5 hours**	**41-42**
Total Program Hours	124	Total Program Hours	124

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates will have knowledge of:

1. principles of teaching and learning
2. principles and theories of leadership;
3. principles of professional communication; and

4. basic agricultural sciences.

Graduates will be able to:

1. plan and conduct agricultural education programs in classroom and community settings;
2. demonstrate professional oral, written, and digital communication strategies to various audiences:
3. be proficient in computer applications; and
4. be readily prepared for employment.

JUSTIFICATION

1. Meeting Educational and Cultural Needs:
The proposed modification has been carefully crafted to address the educational and cultural needs of our local, state, regional, and national communities. The agricultural leadership concentration has been split into two tracks: industry leadership and organizational leadership. By offering an industry leadership track, we are directly addressing the demand for leaders who possess a strong foundation in both agriculture operations and core leadership principles. This track acknowledges the specific challenges and opportunities within production agriculture, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of industry operations while also being equipped with essential leadership skills. Conversely, the Organizational Leadership Track focuses on cultivating professionals adept at leading within agricultural organizations, commodity groups, policy domains, Extension services, community development initiatives, and beyond, aligning with the evolving demands of these areas.

2. Duplication in the System:
While there is some overlap in the leadership concentration curriculum, the focus on industry operations is unique in this new track. This differentiation prevents duplication within the system and ensures that both tracks serve distinct purposes and career pathways. Graduates of the industry leadership track will emerge with a deep understanding of industry operations coupled with the technical skills and the ability to lead within those contexts. Conversely, graduates of the Organizational Leadership Track are prepared to excel in organizational, policy, and advocacy roles within the agricultural sector, as well as in Extension services, community leadership initiatives, ag literacy programs, agritourism ventures, and other related fields, offering a different perspective and skill set.

3. Advancing Student Diversity:
The proposed modification can enhance student diversity within the discipline. By introducing a track focused on industry leadership, we are attracting students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in pursuing leadership positions within the production agriculture sector. This increased diversity will enrich the learning experience, broaden perspectives, and better reflect the changing face of the agricultural workforce. The Organizational Leadership Track provides a unique pathway for students interested in policy, advocacy, community development, ag literacy, agritourism, and organizational leadership within and outside the agriculture sector to contribute, promoting diversity within the field from various angles.

4. Increased Placement Opportunities:
The introduction of an industry leadership track directly addresses the demand for skilled leaders within production agriculture. This track equips graduates with a unique blend of agricultural knowledge and leadership expertise, making them more competitive candidates for positions within agricultural production and related sectors. As a result, we anticipate an increase in the placement of graduates not only within Mississippi but also across the Southeast and the entire United States. graduates of the Organizational Leadership Track are prepared for leadership roles within agricultural organizations, commodity groups, policy-focused entities, Extension services, community development initiatives, ag literacy programs, agritourism ventures, and more, further enhancing placement opportunities.

5. Potential Salary Increase:
Graduates of the industry leadership track will possess a specialized skill set that combines industry-specific expertise in production agriculture with effective leadership strategies and skills. This combination makes them more valuable to potential employers, likely leading to increased earning potential. Additionally, graduates will be well-equipped to drive innovation and growth within agricultural operations, contributing to the overall economic prosperity of the sector in Mississippi, the Southeast, and the entire country. Similarly, graduates of the Organizational Leadership Track are poised to excel in leadership roles often associated with increased responsibilities and corresponding salary potential, whether in policy, Extension services, community leadership, ag literacy, agritourism, or other organizational leadership positions, further underscoring the economic significance of the degree modification.

Additionally, to ensure that the major core curriculum accurately represents the essential courses for all three concentrations (education, leadership, & communication), we have strategically moved some courses from the major core curriculum to each concentration's curriculum. This adjustment guarantees that the major core curriculum aligns with the unique needs and focus of the major overall, allowing the concentration curriculum to provide students with the most relevant and specialized education possible.

In summary, the proposed modification introduces two distinct tracks within the Agriculture Education, Leadership, and Communications (AELC) undergraduate degree program, catering to specific career pathways within the agricultural sector. The Industry Leadership Track focuses on industry operations with integrated leadership skills, while the Organizational Leadership Track prepares graduates for leadership roles within agricultural organizations, commodity groups, policy environments, Extension services, community development initiatives, ag literacy programs, agritourism ventures, and more. These tracks collectively address diverse needs, enhance placement opportunities, and empower graduates for successful careers in a rapidly evolving agricultural field. Moreover, the modification ensures graduates possess a holistic perspective, ready to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture, enhancing cross-disciplinary understanding and making them versatile and effective professionals within the field. In addition, the major core was modified to ensure that all AELC students graduate with a holistic perspective, prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern field of agriculture. This approach not only enhances the depth of knowledge within each concentration but also promotes a cross-disciplinary understanding that is increasingly valued in today's dynamic job market. Graduates of our program are thus equipped not only with specialized expertise but also the ability to bridge the gaps between these critical components, making them versatile and effective professionals within the agricultural field.

SUPPORT

Please see attached letters of support:

1) Interim Direct of The School of Human Sciences, Dr. Teresa Gammill
2) School of Humna Sciences Curriculum Committee
    a. Supported by ALL committee members
3) Email thread from Mississippi Department of Education
    a. This is critical as some of courses count as substitutes for teacher licensure in the state. We had to have their support for the proposed modification and their agreement that they would allow these modified courses to still fulfill the required substitution needs for our students who pursue licensure.

PROPOSED 4-LETTER ABBREVIATION

No Change

EFFECTIVE

Fall 2024

CIP NUMBER

01.0801

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES
P. O. Box 9745
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2950
humansci.msstate.edu

April 10, 2024

University Courses and Curricula Committee
281 Garner Hall
PO Box 5268
Mississippi State, MS 39762

RE: Support Letter for AELC Degree Modification

Dear Committee:

The School of Human Sciences offers this letter of support for the Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communication degree modification. This modification will continue to support our undergraduate students and provide additional opportunities for them following graduation. The modification of the major core course requirements, as well creating the Organizational Leadership and Industry Leadership tracks, will create diverse educational experiences for our students based on our evolving job markets.

The School of Human Sciences will support this modification by offering courses needed for students pursuing this degree a regular basis as well as provide oversight and administration of the degree. A School of Human Sciences faculty member will oversee the program's administration and the Academic Coordinator will report on the progress of the program to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Teresa Gammill
Interim Director

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

School of Human Sciences
Human Development & Family Science Department

P.O. Box 9745
255 Tracy Drive
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.2950
https://www.humansci.msstate.edu

Date: March 27, 2024

Dr. William Davis
Chair, CALS Curriculum Committee
MS State, MS 39762

Dear Dr. Davis,

The School of Human Sciences Curriculum Committee has reviewed the changes made to the Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications degree program. Jessica Benson has addressed all suggested revisions; as such, we affirm our support of this degree modification.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Pansé-Barone

Chelsea Pansé-Barone, Interim Chair for Dr. Morrison

OP McCubbins

OP McCubbins

Julie C. Parker

Julie C. Parker

Charles Freeman

Charles Freeman

Cappe Hallberg

Cappe Hallberg

Bailey Poindexter

Bailey Poindexter

Subject: RE: AELC Degree Modification and IC3 and Technology Literacy Modules Substitute Agreement
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 3:20:18 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Tonya Gipson
To: Benson, Jessica
CC: Gammill, Teresa, McCubbins, OP
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.jpg

Good afternoon Assistant Professor Benson,

We will make sure that Licensure is aware of the changes. If you need additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Tonya

TONYA GIPSON, Director of Instructional Development
Office of Career & Technical Education
601-359-3974 | mdek12.org

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

From: Benson, Jessica <jbenson@humansci.msstate.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:22 PM
To: Tonya Gipson <TGipson@mdek12.org>
Cc: Gammill, Teresa <TGammill@humansci.msstate.edu>; McCubbins, OP <am4942@msstate.edu>
Subject: AELC Degree Modification and IC3 and Technology Literacy Modules Substitute Agreement

External Email

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the MDE organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Tonya,

Thanks so much for your attention to this matter. We are working on some necessary modifications to the degree program for the Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communication major within the School of Human Sciences.

The degree modification involves changing the course number for the Application in Computer Technology course, previously designated as AELC 4203 to AELC 2203 without altering its

curriculum. This adjustment aims to indicate that students should take this course earlier in their degree plan.

Consequently, we kindly request that the attached memo be updated to reflect AELC 2203 as an approved substitute for IC3 and Technology Literacy Modules, as well as COOL requirements. Additionally, we anticipate a transitional period during which AELC 4203 will still be present in the curriculum of existing students. Therefore, we request that it remains an acceptable substitute until all affected students have graduated and obtained licensure.

In addition to the course renumbering, AELC 4113 Methods of Teaching Agriscience has changed to AELC 4723 Pedagogy of Agriscience Programs. We ask for this change to be reflected in the substitute agreement as well.

Furthermore, we seek to ensure that the following endorsements continue to be covered by our substitution agreement:

- 925
- 990
- 991
- 992
- 993

We believe these adjustments will better serve the needs of our students and strengthen our program. Your assistance in facilitating these modifications is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional question or concerns regarding these proposed changes. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,
Jess

Jessica Benson
Assistant Professor
Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communication
662.325.5847
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES

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