

[MAJOR] AG - Agriculture  
Panel

Course Approval Decision Criteria

Course Review Procedures

An institutionally approved representative syllabus in electronic form is required by the panel for its review. Institutions should submit an actual and recent syllabus. If the course has yet to be taught at an institution, a sample syllabus intended for future students is still required.

Institutions sending a course to this panel for approval must document that the course has gone through that institution's acceptance process and verify that the course is an appropriate submission. The process can begin at the individual instructor level, but it must have received approval of the department, curriculum committee, division, or other administrative group prior to proceeding to the next step of the college's established submission process.

The representative course syllabus must clearly include the following elements:

- Course prefix, number, and title
  - Semester credit hours – lecture and lab contact hour breakdown should be included, as well as the course meeting times for lecture and labs.
  - Course description (institution's catalog description recommended)
  - Course objectives
  - Course outline and daily, weekly or class hours dedicated to topic material covered – **this should be detailed and go beyond chapter numbers and titles to include all IAI required topics.**
  - **If the course is a lab course, please include details of lab topics and activities or a detailed separate lab outline.**
  - Course delivery modes (lecture, discussion, etc.)
  - Textbook(s)/Learning Resources used - see information below
  - Means or methods of evaluation of student learning and their weighted proportion of the assessment measurement
  - Grading scale and evaluation information
  - Any prerequisites required for the course
- Note: Required student contact minutes meeting schedule requirements are as follows:*  
*Lecture – 1 contact hour = 750 minutes per semester credit hour*  
*Lab – 2 student contact hours = 1500 minutes per semester credit hour*

General Coding Practice

A course can only be assigned to one AG code/description. Institutions should be clear and careful in determining which IAI code is identified for any syllabus submitted for approval. The

institution should also assure that the course meets the minimum semester credit hour requirement as noted above.

A student may “count” only one course per code in fulfilling AG requirements, even though an institution may assign more than one course to a code. In some cases, however, students at schools on a quarter calendar may need to complete two courses to equate to a one-semester course. An equivalency in this circumstance would be three quarter-credits equals two semester credit hours and five quarter-credits equal three semester credit hours.

### Prerequisites

The prerequisites (including prefix, number, and title) for any course to be considered as satisfying an IAI AG course equivalency must be listed on the submission form and in the submitted course’s syllabus.

### Course Descriptions

The course descriptions for each submitted course should compare favorably to the description given on the iTransfer website. Courses that substantially deviate from the suggested description will not be approved.

### Course Content

The course content should verify the course description. An outline of the course content describing the sequence in which the course’s topics will be covered is required to be included in the syllabus. This outline can be supplemented by a daily or weekly schedule of topics to be discussed. The outline will be used by the panel to determine if appropriate attention is given to the specific topics that accurately match the course description. An outline simply listing “Chapter 1, Chapter 2, etc.” is not acceptable. The course topics *must* be listed in this outline and include the approximate amount of hours, days or weeks dedicated to each of the course topics.

### Course Objectives (Student Learning Objectives)

The course objectives should state measurable learning outcomes for students. The objectives should be stated in such a manner that it is clear how these outcomes will be assessed, such as through objective/subjective examinations, written assignments, oral presentations, etc.

### Textbooks/Learning Resources

The syllabus for submitted courses must include a listing of the text(s) that are required for the course. This listing must include the text’s author, edition, date of publication, and publisher. It

is recommended that the text's ISBN also be included in the textbook description. A fairly recently published text is required for course approval. Supplemental texts or other reading materials required for the course must also be listed. Texts reflect and support writing, speaking or content outcomes and requirements. As institutions pursue the opportunity to expand into online/open resource electronic text material, the panel has sought to provide some necessary guidance on citing these learning resources in submitted syllabi and documents. If any online reading or resource materials are used, provide accessible evidence which may be a complete working url or bibliographic citation. This site/resource must be active, working, and viewable by the panel. Active hyperlinks are acceptable but cannot be embedded in an online learning system.

### Methods of Evaluation / Grading Scale

The means of evaluating a student's performance in the course must be included in the submitted syllabus. Means of measurement acceptable to the panel include objective and/or subjective exams, quizzes, written assignments, oral presentations, group projects, and attendance points. Other types of student evaluation or measurement may be accepted on a case by case basis.

A grading scale must also be included in the submitted syllabus and should list any special weighting of particular assignments, quizzes, exams, presentations, or attendance points.

#### **Examples:**

Exams/Quizzes - 525; Assignments – 150; Attendance - 75 (Total Points = 750)

or:

Exams/Quizzes – 70%, Assignments – 20%, Attendance – 10%, (Total = 100%)

### **Labs in Agriculture courses – Panel Expectations**

- The panel expects lab courses to be 4 credit hours to allow time for lab content.

AG 901- Introduction to Agricultural Economics (3-4 semester credits)

AG 902 - Introduction to Animal Science (3-4 semester credits)

Lab possible

AG 903 - Introduction to Crop (or Plant) Science (4 semester credits)

Lab possible

AG 904 - Introduction to Soil Science (3-4 semester credits)

Lab Possible

AG 905 - Introduction to Horticulture (3-4 semester credits)

Lab possible

AG 906 - Introduction to Agricultural Mechanization (3-4 semester credits)

Lab possible

AG 907 - Introduction to Precision Agriculture (2-4 semester credits) - NEW COURSE!

Lab Possible

AG 911 - Introduction to Agriculture Education (2-3 semester credits)

AG 912 - Introduction to Floral Design (3 semester credits)

Lab possible

AG 913 - Introductory Microcomputer Skills in Agriculture (3 semester credits)

Lab possible

**For lab possible courses**, the panel needs a detailed description of lab activities for each lab included in the course. It should also be clear the breakdown of contact hours for lecture and lab to meet the appropriate credit hours required for each and the course. If a course is identified as "lab possible" by the panel, the course does **not** have to have a lab if it is not designed as such at the institution.

### Common Reasons Courses are not Approved

In order to facilitate prompt approval of course submission, it may be helpful to be aware of some common reasons for which courses are not approved:

- Course title does not match course description
- Course content does not match course description
- Course is too broad in scope - outline contains too many topics
- Course is too narrow in scope - outline has too few topics to fulfill course description
- Course is not a lower division course
- Course syllabus has weak or un-measurable objectives
- Course syllabus has no means of evaluation or grading scale
- Course syllabus fails to include time allocation spent on topic areas
- Course syllabus fails to include weighted measurement of assessment methods
- If a topical outline within a syllabus does not provide the detail necessary for the panel to determine if all required topics are adequately covered, the course will not be approved.