An Innovative Agricultural Science Education at a Non-Land-Grant University

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Theme

Promoting Student-Centered Learning and Engagement

FIU’s Vision and Mission

Student-Centered Urban Public Research University
The Theme of the AgroEcology and Urban Landscape Curriculum

Natural Ecosystems

water, land, soil, biodiversity (+)

land conversion, pollution (-)

Agriculture

Urban Area

urban sprawl, pollution (-)

urban sprawl (-)

ecological services (+)

food, jobs, aesthetics (+)
Objectives of the FIU-Agroecology Program

- Continue to offer a comprehensive agroecology program at FIU by targeting under-represented populations and a significant number of freshmen from high schools and transfer students from Miami Dade College with agriculture sciences background.

- Incorporate scientific instrumentation into the agricultural sciences curriculum.

- Establish campus organic garden to provide students with hands on experience.

- Promote agriculture careers – Jobs or Graduate Education.
Recruitment Activities

- Biannual visit to six Miami-Dade County Senior High Schools (STEAM Academy)
- Summer workshops for High School Students in STEAM area
- Environmental Immersion Day for High School Students through Fairchild Challenge Program
- Participation in Fairchild Challenge Competition – Judge
- Participation in Miami-Dade County Science and Engineering Fair – Judge and best project awards
Major in Agriculture Sciences – Fall 2015
Degree: BS Environmental Studies

Some of the Courses:
Horticulture + Lab
Agronomy – Modern Crop Production
Soil Science + Lab
Soil Microbiology + Lab
Integrated Pest Management
Agriculture Colloquium
Agriculture Internship
Agroecology
Sustainable Agriculture
Incorporate scientific field experiments as requirement for Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture courses

Agroecology class students conducted various field experiments. The focus of these projects is sustainable agriculture production

250 students took part in different field experiments
Exp. Learning Activities

- Campus Organic Garden
- Community Garden
- Shade house
- Permaculture
- Fish pond
- Vermiculture unit
- Native edible
- Smoothie sale @ farmers’ market
Students Research
Outreach Activities

Annual Agroecology Symposium:

📍 Goal:

-- bring together academicians, agricultural agency and extension personnel, and farmers to FIU to address emerging issues in sustainable agriculture science for the benefit of students and faculty

-- showcase the agroecology student projects & provide them with professional experience of communication and interaction
Activities

- Students' educational and social activities
- Garden Club (MANRRS) & The community outreach
- Field tours
- Social events
- Bi-weekly Brownbag meeting
- Participation in the farmers market
http://agroecology.fiu.edu

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Collaborators, Partners, Faculty, and Students