Assessing Civically Engaged Curriculum: Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Minor at Virginia Tech

North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture
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CAFS Programmatic Goals

1. Provide a foundation of knowledge consistent with entry-level civic agriculture, food systems education.

2. Aid in the development of effective broad-based communication skills in civic agriculture food systems education.

3. Provide a learning environment that fosters critical thinking skills in civic agriculture food systems education.
CAFS Core Values

1. Food Security/Food Sovereignty
2. Experiential Learning
3. Ecological Stewardship
4. Healthy People/Healthy Communities
5. Collaborative Teaching
6. Civic Engagement & Democratic Participation
CAFS Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge in the policies and practices of civic agriculture and food systems by developing and implementing an educational strategy through community partnerships.

2. Apply effective communication to develop sustainable community programs to enhance civic agriculture in diverse communities.

3. Apply effective leadership to develop sustainable community programs to enhance civic agriculture in diverse communities.

4. Apply effective teamwork skills to develop sustainable community programs to enhance civic agriculture in diverse communities.

5. Apply reflective and articulated learning to make decisions, to identify civic agriculture problems and determine, implement, and evaluate community programs.
Programmatic Assessment
For Assessing Programmatic Goals, Student Learning Outcomes and alignment with course Learning Objectives & Content

CAFS Taskforce:
• Interdisciplinary Faculty
• Collaborative Teaching Teams
• Community-partner Liaison (representing CP’s)
• College administrative support

Courses: Required for Minor (separate track for single course completers)
• ALS 2204-Prerequisite
• ALS 4204-Interchangeable
• ALS 3404-Interchangeable
• ALS 4214-Capstone

Students:
• (n=52 minor enrolled)
• Representing 8 colleges

Administration:
• CALS Office of Academic Programs
• VT Office of Assessment
• VT Engage
• Dining Services
• AEE
• HNFE
• HORT
• CSES
• ADS
• VCE

Evaluation of CAFS Taskforce Effectiveness
Focus Group (existing data)
Faculty Interviews
Community-Partner Focus Group
Administrative Interviews
Curriculum Workshop (Participatory)

Assessment of course alignment with CAFS Minor
Content- Alignment with objectives
Assignments: scaffolding (Project Proposal, Service-learning)
Structure- Syllabus, Assignments, Reflections, ePortfolio
Course completers vs. Minor completers

Reflection prompt (progressive Growth in ePortfolio)
Critical Reflection Statement (Articulated Learning Prompt)
Project proposal
Farm plan
Focus Group
Qualtrics Survey
Student Job Placement & Award Recognition (tally)

VT Mission Statement
VT Strategic Plan
• Align CAFS Goals, Objectives, SLO’s
• Departmental Support of Faculty
• Credit Accountability Process
Definitions for Scaffolding Scale Measurement Criterion: The purpose of a curriculum map is to document the relationship between every component of the curriculum. Used as an analysis, communication, and planning tool.

- **Master (M):** Mastery of the knowledge, skills or dispositions required by the standard. The candidate substantially exceeds expectations by providing multiple layers of connected and convincing evidence to show exceptional performance in meeting the professional principle.

- **Reinforced/Emphasized (R):** Intermediate to advanced performance in relation to essential knowledge, skills or dispositions required by the standard. The candidate exceeds minimum expectations by providing multiple sources of clear evidence to make a strong case for meeting the professional standard.

- **Introduced (I):** Intermediate performance in relation to essential knowledge, skills or dispositions required by the standard. The candidate meets minimum expectations by providing at least one piece of evidence to meet the professional standard.
CAFS Assessment Working Group

• Introduction: CAFS Taskforce
  – Mechanism for design/implementation of program evaluation plan

• Workshop date selection

• Three hour workshop

• Agenda informed by Qualtrics survey
CAFS Assessment Working Group

• Small working groups:
  – Collaborative Teaching Teams
    • Course alignment with minor & other core courses
    • Assignments (guidelines/rubrics)

• Large working group:
  – Action items – order of operations through consensus
  – Revisit action items/resolve throughout the year addressing in order of importance