

impact

of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



Society-Ready Graduates

Agricultural Sciences Teacher Preparation Program

Issue

Currently there are not enough graduates to meet the demand for agricultural sciences teachers in the state of Arizona. This trend is reflected nationally, where there has been a decades-long shortage of teachers in agricultural sciences.

What has been done?

The Department of Agricultural Education in the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has built a full teacher preparation program at industry request, based on 85 field-based competencies. Faculty consulted with professional agricultural sciences teachers to develop course work that would directly apply to actual needs on the job in high school classrooms. These are incorporated in a logical, seamless flow across the curriculum without duplication. Experiential learning is the key to the program's format and students are immersed in the activities found in the world of agricultural education teachers.

Impact

The UA Department of Agricultural Education prepares 12-15 students annually as teachers; there are typically 20 openings every year in the state. Any student who has a desire to teach has a job; 100 percent of the teacher candidates graduate with employment secured.

"The current process for preparing agricultural science teachers in Arizona is light-years ahead of what I received as a teacher. The day I started with this student teacher, she was two-months ahead of teachers we have had in the past." –supervising master teacher in program

Funding

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The University of Arizona Department of Agricultural Education

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