

*Journal of the American Association of
Teacher Educators in Agriculture
Volume 4, Number 2, pp.17-19
DOI: 10.5032/jaatea.1963.02017*

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM REVISED

David R. McClay, The Pennsylvania State University

Beginning with the Fall Term 1964, all four-year degree students enrolled in the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University schedule a common program of courses for the first two years. This plan was adopted so that the University's 14 Commonwealth Campuses located in different sections of the State could better provide the required courses needed by students majoring in agriculture during their first two years of college work: About forty percent of the agricultural majors attend Commonwealth Campuses their freshman and sophomore years.

In preparation for the common freshman and sophomore year programs, all majors (curriculums) in the College were revised. We in Agricultural Education not only adjusted our undergraduate program to the common first two-year requirement but made other changes which we felt would improve the pre-service education of the students.

Flexible Curriculum

Under the new plan, specific courses are required in the area of "Agricultural Specialization" for a major in Agricultural Education. We formerly required 46 semester hour credits of specific agricultural courses in this area. We decided to drop all required courses and adopt an arrangement whereby each student must complete a minimum of six credits in each of the four areas, Soil and Plant Science, Animal Science, Business and Management, and Engineering. In addition, the student must select one of the above four areas and complete nine additional credits of work. He also has nine more credits of agricultural electives which can be concentrated in one of the four areas or spread over two or more areas. We feel this arrangement will give the flexibility needed to prepare two types of teachers: (1) The agricultural teacher with a minimum of preparation in most agricultural fields, the type of teacher we have been preparing for years under the old major before revision. (2) The agricultural teacher with considerable depth of preparation in a few specific agricultural fields. We believe teachers with this preparation will be more and more in demand with the growth of agricultural programs in area technical schools and community colleges.

It is possible under our revised program for an Agricultural Education major to accumulate as many credits in a specific agricultural field as if he were majoring in that field. We have encouraged majors in other departments in the College of Agriculture to elect a minor in Agricultural Education. This is being done in an increasing number of instances.

Certification Requirements

Pennsylvania teacher certification laws require all teachers to complete 60 semester credits or hours in general education courses including 12 credits in the humanities, 6 credits in the social sciences, and 6 credits in the natural sciences. The regulations also require the student to obtain a minimum of 18 credits in "Professional Education" including courses in Social Foundations in Education, Educational Psychology, Curriculum Materials and Methods, and Student Teaching. We require 24 credits of professional education courses in the Agricultural Education major. Nineteen of the 24 credits are Agricultural Education courses, including 10 credits given for 10 weeks of student teaching.

We believe the flexibility of the revised curriculum will help us to do a better job in pre-service teacher education.

The Pennsylvania State University

MAJOR IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

<u>1st Term</u>		<u>2nd Term</u>		<u>3rd Term</u>	
Botany 1 or 27	3-4	Chemistry 12	4	Bio.Sci. Elect.	3-4
Chemistry 11	3	Soc.Sci. or Human.	3	Math. or Stat.	3
English 1	3	Zoology 25	3	English 3	3
Ph. Ed.	1	Ph. Ed.	1	Ph. Ed.	1
	<u>10-11</u>		<u>11</u>		<u>10-11</u>
<u>*4th Term</u>		<u>*5th Term</u>		<u>*6th Term</u>	
Bio.Sci. or Phys.		Bio. Sci. or Phys.		Bio.Sci. or Phys.	
Sci. Elective	3-4	Sci. Elective	3-4	Sci. Elective	3-4
Soc.Sci. or Human.	3	Soc.Sci. or Human.	3	Speech 200	.3
Elective	3	Elective	3	Elective	3
Ph. Ed.	1				
	<u>10-11</u>		<u>9-10</u>		<u>9-10</u>
<u>7th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>	<u>8th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>
**Agricultural Electives		10	Psy. 14, Educational Psychology		3
Communication Elective		3	**Agricultural Electives		9
		<u>13</u>			<u>12</u>
<u>9th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>	<u>10th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>
Ed.Ser. 115, Education in American Society		3	Ag.Ed. 12v, Special Methods of Teaching Agriculture		3
**Agricultural Electives		9	Ag.Ed. 22v, Methods of School Farm Shop Management		2
		<u>12</u>	**Agricultural Electives		5
			Elective		3
					<u>13</u>
<u>11th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>	<u>12th Term</u>		<u>Credits</u>
Ag.Ed. 14v, Practice Teaching in Vocational Agriculture		10	Ag.Ed. 422v, Supervision of Vocational Education in Agriculture		1
		<u>10</u>	**Agricultural Electives		9
			Elective		3
					<u>13</u>

* For graduation the student must complete a minimum of 132 credits, including four credits of physical education. During the first six terms the student should schedule Psy. 2 and Hist. 20 or 21 as social science electives, Ag. Ed. 1v, and the second mathematics course, or a course in statistics.

** To be graduated from this major, the student must have completed a minimum of six credits in each of the following technical agricultural areas: plant science, animal science, engineering, and business. An additional nine credits must be completed in one of the above four areas.