

Guidelines for Completing a Scholarly or Creative Component Project

These requirements apply to graduate students enrolled in the Online Master of Science in Agriculture Program in the Hutson School of Agriculture (HSOA).

Overview

All students are required to develop and present a creative component project as part of their Online Master's Program. A creative component is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge of content, theory, and research to a real-world problem. The project will be completed during enrollment in *AGR 700 Research in Agriculture*, and should align with the student's professional goals. Options for creative components are diverse. Examples of topics for creative components include:

- Design and conduct a program evaluation
- Develop curriculum or curricular components for an educational unit
- Evaluate the impact of an organizational policy
- Create a training or professional development program
- Deliver and evaluate a series of workshops
- Design a marketing campaign
- Conduct a needs assessment
- Design & create a web presence portfolio
- Create a business or marketing plan
- Develop an entrepreneurial plan to seek venture capital
- Design a financial product or service
- Conduct a financial or strategic assessment of a firm or organization
- Build a set of customized financial or accounting forms to assess an organization's financials
- Conduct research on employment and human resources practices
- Design and test a new mobile application or technological solution for agriculture

Final Product

The deliverable product can take many forms. The outcome should be congruent with an industry-standard product in the student's professional field. Regardless of the format, the project must include a significant written product that effectively conveys the project's findings. Examples of final deliverable products include:

- Manuscript for a Peer-reviewed Journal
- Detailed Business or Marketing Plan
- Technical Report
- Research Report

Process

Students should enroll in *AGR 700 Research in Agriculture* with their advisor during two different semesters (for a total of six (6) credit hours. These semesters need not be sequential, but a student should not enroll in all six credit hours of AGR 700 in the same semester. The process for developing and completing the scholarly/creative component requires the following three stages:

1) 1st Semester of Enrollment in AGR 700

Students will work in consultation with their advisor to develop a proposal for submission to their graduate committee. The proposal should be in the form of an executive summary (5 – 10 pages) and include:

- Title Page
- Purpose of the Project

- Objectives of the Project
- Conceptual and/or Theoretical Support for the Project
- Description of the Proposed Project
- Detailed Description of the Final Written Product
- Projected Timeline for the Project

The written proposal must be reviewed and approved by all committee members. The choice to require an oral defense/presentation of the proposal will be at the discretion of the student's advisor and committee members. If an oral presentation is required, it will be conducted through two-way videoconferencing software such as Skype.

2) **2nd Semester of Enrollment in AGR 700**

Students will work in consultation with their advisor to complete the project as proposed and approved.

3) **Enrollment in AGR 722**

As part of the requirements for *AGR 722 Graduate Capstone Seminar*, students will present the final product of their scholarly/creative component to their graduate committee. The written product should be delivered to all committee members for review not fewer than 14 days prior to the scheduled oral presentation. Students will have the option to travel to campus to deliver their presentation in-person or to deliver their presentation using two-way videoconferencing software such as Skype.

Suggested Timeline

1st semester:

- Initial meetings with advisor regarding potential projects
- Identification of committee members

2nd or 3rd Semester:

- Enrollment in first AGR 700 course with advisor
 - Student should complete AGR 735 Research Methods prior to enrolling in AGR 700.
- Development of project proposal
- Project proposal reviewed and approved by committee members
- Oral presentation of proposal (if required by advisor and/or committee members)

4th or 5th Semester:

- Enrollment in second AGR 700 course with advisor
- Conduct research/execute proposed project

Between AGR 700 and Final Semester:

- Complete project and finish final written product in consultation with advisor

Final Semester:

- Enrollment in AGR 722
- Develop final oral presentation

Two Weeks Prior to Defense:

- Deliver final written product to committee members

Defense:

- Student delivers final oral presentation of project.
- Committee decides to approve or disapprove final project.