

Stakeholder Involvement in Curricula Design. (A01-foster064141-Oral)

Authors:

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Abstract:

In January 2000, the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Michigan State University implemented a comprehensive curricular review process centered around stakeholder involvement. The curriculum committee included one graduate student and two undergraduate students. The review process involved a three-pronged approach -- an undergraduate focus group facilitated by a graduate student; a written survey of all graduates since 1975, and a day-long meeting of an 11-member external advisory committee composed of representatives from the agricultural industry, extension, alumni, farmers, farm bureau, government agencies, and another major university. The external advisory committee was charged with (1) identifying the critical skills and competencies required for a successful career in the agricultural sciences, (2) ascertaining the best methods for helping students obtain those skills and competencies, and (3) determining the ideal curriculum if there were no constraints. The review process resulted in the development of a specialization or minor in international agriculture, a name change for one of the three options offered in the major, and substantial curricular changes for two of the options.

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