

A SWOT Analysis of *Agricultural Courses for Dual Credit*

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Agricultural Courses for Dual Credit

- USDA NIFA Secondary Challenge Grant
- Award # 2014-38414-22393
- Texas A&M University-Commerce

Delivered *ANS 1319 Intro to Animal Science* to:

- Kemp High School (periurban) 5
- Sam Rayburn High School (rural) 4
- South Garland (urban) 7

Strengths

- Dual credit with *Advanced Animal Science*
- High School Science Credit
- Students introduced to:
 - University admission process
 - Online course format and activities
 - Variety of assessment methods
 - College/university course expectations
 - University level course content

Weaknesses

- No standard approach among school partners
- Teachers may lack master's degree
- Changes in personnel resulted in delayed start
- Lack of interest outside of the ag classroom
- Online delivery presented challenges
- Secondary teachers lacked access to student work/grades
- Class time concurrent with students not in DC

Opportunities

- Secondary interest among other schools
- Potential for expansion to other disciplines
- Low/no cost access to university coursework
- Access to diverse group of potential students
- Chance to promote majors/careers in Ag
- Incentive for teachers to pursue master's

Threats

- Personnel changes
- Lack of support/disinterest by administrators
- Variation for promoting on HS campus
- Inconsistency with *who pays* for course(s)
- University courses more expensive than those from community colleges

Observation from Pilot Project

- Little interest from partnership schools in dual credit in *Food Science*
- Secondary teachers want greater role
- More challenging with larger campuses
- Communication among all stakeholders is essential for success
- Secondary courses designated for dual credit should limit enrollment only to those interested in pursuing university/college credit

Incentives for Partners in this Project

- Classroom set (20) laptops and charge station
- Stipend for teacher collaboration
- Small budget for supplies, substitute teacher, and professional development for teacher
- University course (3 SCH) at \$150 per student

Future Plans

- Summer *AC/DC Institute* for interested secondary teachers
- Offer two courses Fall 2016
 - *Introduction to Animal Science*
 - *Principles of Food Science*
- Expand course offerings and partnerships

Questions?