

Curriculum Renewal in Trying Times

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Introduction

We began a curriculum renewal project for UBC's Food Science major in May 2019. When the pandemic struck at the mid point of our project, it caused us to reprioritize and reschedule our project outcomes. We shifted our focus to improving **how we communicate our curriculum**, especially important during this virtual learning phase.

Impacts of the Pandemic on Curriculum Renewal

- Curricular 'holes' created from postponed laboratory courses
- Poor time to launch new courses
- Increased demands on faculty/staff/advisors
- Increased need for clear, consistent course and program information
- Academic integrity challenges related to online examinations

Curriculum Renewal Adaptations

1. Rearranged classroom and laboratory content
2. Supported transition to standard syllabi and Canvas templates
3. Improved course and program learning outcome (CLO/PLO) communication
4. Streamlined restricted elective lists
5. Expanded program websites' level of curricular detail

1. Content Rearrangement

- Piloted missing content areas in place of postponed laboratory courses
- Pursued guest presentations to take advantage of virtual environment

2. Standard Syllabus and Canvas Templates

- Created standard syllabus template based on UBC Senate's syllabus guidelines
- Customized template by adding governing body PLOs; expanded academic integrity section; recommended welcome message rather than an instructor biography
- Supported creation of standard Canvas home page and course template for faculty-wide use

LFS Remote Teaching Template 2020W1

Home page from LFS Canvas template

3. Course and Program Learning Outcomes

- Made CLOs concise, in standard format, and accurately represent course content
- Added PLOs to course syllabi to educate students about program scope
- Highlighted each course's PLO coverage

IFT program learning outcomes for FNH 200

4. Restricted Elective Lists

- Organized courses into topical sections
- Added course links to SSC
- Included prerequisites, highlighting those outside of program requirements

Sustainability-related		
APBI 265	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems	-
APBI 361	Key Indicators of Agroecosystem Sustainability	-
ASIC 220	Introduction to Sustainability	Y2
GEOG 310	Environment and Sustainability	-
SCIE 420	Sustainability for Community and the World	Y4 & LFS 250 (or other options)
LFS 450	Land, Food, and Community III: Leadership in Campus Food Systems	-
Note - for FNH/FRE business elective options, only FNH 415 can be taken without ECON 101/310		
Business-related		
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics (equivalent to ECON 310)	-
ECON 102	Principles of Macroeconomics (equivalent to ECON 311)	-
ECON 226	Making Sense of Economic Data	All of ECON 101, ECON 102
ECON 301	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis I	One of ECON 101, ECON 310 and one of MATH 100, MATH 101, I
FNH 415	Business Concepts in Food, Nutrition, and Health	Y3
FRE 295	Managerial Economics	All of ECON 101, ECON 102 and MATH 105.
FRE 302	Small Business Management in Agri-food Industries	ECON 101 or ECON 310
FRE 306	Introduction to Global Food Markets	ECON 101 or ECON 310
FRE 340	International Agricultural Development	ECON 101 or ECON 310
FRE 374	Land and Resource Economics	ECON 101 or ECON 310
FRE 385	Quantitative Methods for Business and Resource Management	One of ECON 101, ECON 310 and one of LFS 252, BIOL 300, FRST
FRE 420	The Economics of International Trade and the Environment	One of ECON 301, FRE 295, COMM 295. (or 6 credits of upper-level)
FRE 460	Economics of Food Consumption	ECON 101 or ECON 310
FRE 490	Current Issues in Food and Resource Economics	ECON 101 or ECON 310
COMM 320	Foundations in Accounting I	only available to students completing the Master of Management
COMM 321	Organizational Behaviour	only available to students completing the Master of Management
COMM 420	Marketing	only available to students completing the Master of Management
COMM 421	Introductory Finance	only available to students completing the Master of Management

Two sections of revised restricted elective list

5. Websites

- Added PLOs, governing body and professional association information
- Emphasized links to Academic Calendar and SSC
- Addressed course load realities and program planning options

Collaboration

Planning on starting some curriculum renewal? We are happy to share our:

- Stakeholder surveys
- Curriculum map templates
- Program comparison sheet

