13. Special Consideration

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**
Area of Concentration – Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies
Name of Area of Concentration: Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies

Department: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

College: Agriculture and Life Sciences

Office responsible for advising students in this Area of Concentration:

a. Office Name/Location: Joe Townsend 109 Kleberg

b. Telephone Number: 979-845-3712

c. Email: drjoe@tamu.edu

The University Studies degree is an innovative interdisciplinary degree with an area of concentration and two minors, at least one of which is in a different college from that of the area of concentration. The degree serves two main groups of students: first, students who are in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or above) but who are unable to find or gain access to a major of interest and (b) students who specifically seek a broad interdisciplinary combination of coursework that is unavailable through existing degree programs.

The educational objective of the University Studies Degree is to provide students with an interdisciplinary academic degree that will prepare them for a successful life and career or for graduate school.

Please append two items to this sheet:

1. A statement that: A) describes the area of concentration and distinguishes it from existing majors, B) explains how this area of concentration would serve at least one of the two main groups of students cited above, and C) indicates how this area of concentration would promote the purposes of the university studies degree as described above. In the case of a College submission, please indicate support from the faculty.

2. The enclosed form for listing courses that will be used in the area of concentration that will be required as prerequisites, and will be used for university core curriculum requirements.

Reviewed and approved by:

[Signature] 3/8/07
Department Head/Program Director

[Signature] 3/8/07
College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
or UCC Representative

[Signature] 3/8/07
AOC Dean of College

For Interdisciplinary Degrees Only:

[Signature] 3/8/07
Department Head/Program Director

[Signature] 3/8/07
College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
or UCC Representative

[Signature] 3/8/07
AOC Dean of College
COURSE FORM

Attachment M

There needs to be a minimum of 6 hours at 400-level and 36 hours of 300-400 level coursework in residence at Texas A&M University.

A. Select 21-24 hours from among the following courses for the area of concentration. If there will be more than 24 hours in the area of concentration please include a justification. Two approved writing courses will be required for the University Studies degree. The courses may be in the area of concentration or the minors. Please indicate writing courses in the area of concentration, if any, with a W following the course number (TAMU 400 W). If courses required for the area of concentration include a course or courses from outside the department of the area of concentration, please include a letter of support from the department(s) offering the course(s). Courses listed as part of the University Core Curriculum do not need a letter of support.

1. The following _21_ hours of course work are required*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGLS 101</td>
<td>Agricultural Systems and Renewable Resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENR 205</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENTO 322</td>
<td>Insects in Human Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 340</td>
<td>Agribusiness Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRO 330</td>
<td>Ethics of International Food Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advisor directed COALS electives

*Any COALS/Minor writing course can be used (must have 2 writing courses)*

2. Select _0_ hours from the following courses*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If the Area of Concentration requires students to select courses from a list of pre-selected combinations, please duplicate this table; e.g. two course from column A, two courses from column B

3. Prerequisite courses not included in the University Core Curriculum or listed above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 of 7 M
B. Student will select two minors (30-36 hours). One must be from outside the college offering the area of concentration.

C. Free electives (17-26 hours). If there will be fewer than 17 hours of free electives please include a justification in the preceding 2-3 page statement.

D. Specify courses in the University Core Curriculum \(^1\), \(^2\), \(^3\) that will be required for this area of concentration (43 hours). Please maintain as much flexibility as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 104</td>
<td>ENGL 104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>POLS 206 &amp; 207</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
<td>From Core Curriculum List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>KINE 198 &amp; 199</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:  

\(^1\) To be selected from the University Core Curriculum.

\(^2\) There is a graduation requirement which includes 6 hours of international and cultural diversity courses. Refer to the International and Cultural Diversity table for a list of acceptable courses. A course satisfying a University Core category, a college/department requirement, or as a free elective may be used to satisfy this requirement.

\(^3\) Completion in high school of two units of the same foreign language or one year of college work is required for graduation.
APPENDIX A
DESCRIPTION AND DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCE STUDIES AREA OF CONCENTRATION

DESCRIPTION:
In the future of our world, only one thing is certain— humanity will be confronted with still more surprises, opportunities and problems. Education in our universities must advance in step with the world itself. TAMU must produce graduates who have broad-based interdisciplinary experiences as a foundation for lifelong learning, the capacity to create new knowledge, competence in oral and written communication, analytical problem solving skills, teamwork, an international perspective, and an understanding of the processes of learning. Students educated today must acquire the knowledge and skills to grasp and manage the unpredictable world of tomorrow.

In the late 1980's, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences deleted the "General Agriculture Degree". Today, the need exists for a "general" type of degree in the College. The Area of Concentration in "Agriculture and Life Sciences" can fill that need.

Citizenship is paramount. An outcome will be society-ready citizens prepared to accept the realities of importance in a globally competitive world. The area of concentration will try to light the torch of inquiry in each student; provide many open doors of educational opportunities for our students and provide pathways of success for each student. The AGLS area of concentration ought to produce a student who at graduation is well prepared to begin a life informed by intelligent study, the ability to learn well by further experience in life, and a critical judgment that should work well in any situation.

APPENDIX B
STUDENT POPULATION SERVED
AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES STUDIES AREA OF CONCENTRATION

Students with a 2.0 GPR are eligible for admission into the Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies Area of Concentration. Students with a desire to major in University Studies/Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies apply by stating, on an application form, their intentionality for learning the new world of agriculture and how they will incorporate this area of concentration into their 2 Minor selections. Selection for the Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies Area of Concentration is based on a student's plans for utilization of Agriculture and Life Sciences courses and how they may impact society.

APPENDIX C
PROMOTION OF THE UNIVERITY STUDIES PURPOSE
AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES STUDIES AREA OF CONCENTRATION

The intention of the Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies Area of Concentration is to provide students with a positive, interdisciplinary approach to their university education. The Area of Concentration courses develop the impact of agriculture, the life sciences, and their related fields.

Variations of Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies programs exist within universities and colleges throughout the United States. For example, there are thirteen universities in the state of Texas offering a University Degree in various areas in the Agricultural Sciences. Over ten thousand students are studying agriculture and its related fields in the state of Texas. Also, there are over 60 thousand students studying Agricultural Sciences at the high school level. The graduates of such programs enter professions as varied as the students themselves. Students with degrees in Agriculture and Life Sciences studies are prepared as life long learners who transcend multiple careers through their life.
Texas A&M University  
University Studies Degree  
Proposed Area of Concentration

Name of Concentration: Agriculture and Life Sciences Studies

Department: COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

College: AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

There needs to be a minimum of 6 hours at 400-level and 36 hours of 300-400 level coursework in residence at Texas A&M University.

A. Select 21-24 hours from among the following courses for the area of concentration. If there will be more than 24 hours in the area of concentration please include a justification below. Two approved writing courses will be required for the University Studies degree. The courses may be in the area of concentration or the minors. Please indicate writing courses in the area of concentration, if any, with a W following the course number (TAMU 400 W).

1. The following 10 hours of course work are required

   1 HR AGLS 101
   1 HR AGLS 105
   3 HR ENTO 322
   3 HR AGRO 330

2. Select 11 hours from the following courses:

   3 AGRO 105
   3 HORT 201
   3 ENTO 201
   3 HORT 208
   3 HORT 203
   3 HORT 301
   3 AEC 315
   3 ALEC 380
   3 ANSC 201
   3 ANSC 302
   3 ALED 340 W
   3 RPTS 340
   2 ANSC 400
   3 AEC 380
   3 ANSC 207
   3 ALED 422
   3 ALED 426
   3 ALED 440 W
   3 ALED 441
   3 ALEC 422
   3 HORT 420
   3 HORT 445
   3 ENTO 440
   3 AGLS 301

3. Prerequisite courses not included in the University Core Curriculum or listed above:

   NONE

B. Student will select two minors (30-36 hours). One must be from outside the college offering the area of concentration.

C. Free electives (17-28 hours). If there will be fewer than 17 hours of free electives please include a justification below.
D. Specify courses in the University Core Curriculum\(^1,2,3\) that will be required for this area of concentration (43 hours). Please maintain as much flexibility as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>any listed</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>any listed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>any listed</td>
<td>V&amp;P Arts</td>
<td>any listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanity</td>
<td>any listed</td>
<td>Comm</td>
<td>any listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>any listed</td>
<td>ENGL 104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KINE 198</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 206</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 207</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Office responsible for advising students in the area of concentration:

a. Office Name/Location: COALS Undergraduate Advising Office, 109 Kleberg
   979 845-3712

b. Telephone Number: 979 845-3712

c. Email: drjoe@tamu.edu

Justification for areas of concentration not following these guidelines:

NONE NEEDED

Reviewed and approved by:

Department Head/Program Director

AOC Dean of College 1-19-07

College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee or UCC Representative

1/19/07

NOTES:

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