

Reorganization of experiential learning activities into a single multi-section course

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INTRODUCTION

All students in the Animal Sciences major are required to complete one credit hour of ANSC 398: Experiential Learning.

•“Outside the classroom” learning experiences were distributed among a series of classes encompassing undergraduate research, study abroad experiences, and on-campus and off-campus internships.

•To allow for better cohesion and standardization across experiences, these many courses were revised into a single course rubric—ANSC 398—containing multiple sections.

•To complete ANSC 398, students must:

- Choose and establish an experience
- Choose a faculty instructor to oversee the experience
- Determine learning objectives for the experience
- Agree upon a work product to demonstrate attainment of learning objectives
- Complete a memorandum of agreement with the faculty instructor
- Complete the experience and submit work product to be evaluated

•The department maintains an archive of experiences and work products to better advise students regarding possible experiences.

As of the summer 2013, 220 students have participated in ANSC 398 since its inception in the Summer of 2012.

- Students include 15 non-major students from 9 other departments
- In total, 289 separate experiences were completed with several students completing multiple experiences.
- In total, 40 faculty instructors have supervised experiences including 6 instructors from outside of the department.
- Students were also given the opportunity to present their work products at a student recruiting event and compete for 4 experiential learning awards.

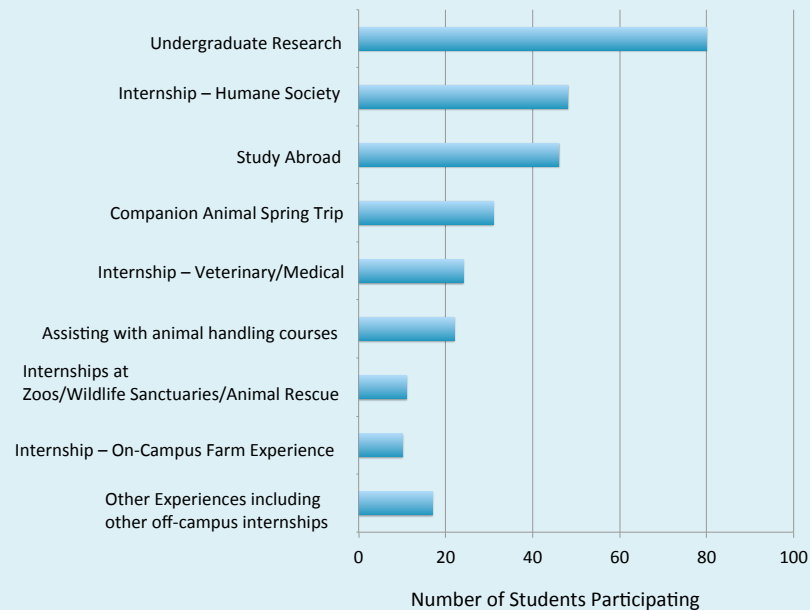
OBJECTIVES

Encouraging students to engage in out-of-the-classroom experiences is a long standing priority for our department. These experiences were organized into a single class with many sections to facilitate greater participation and cohesion.

TYPES OF EXPERIENCES

Students participated in a wide range of experiences encompassing both traditional and non-traditional animal science species.

- Companion animal spring trip visited several Midwest companion animal facilities
- Study abroad included both international internships and research experiences or study tours
- Veterinary/Medical internship included shadowing veterinarians with an increased focus on demonstration of learning and skills obtained
- “Other” listed below includes 2 internships at ag-related companies, 4 internships at extension/fairs, 2 internships at a dog training facility, 3 animal evaluation team experiences, 5 dairy challenge experiences and enrollment of 1 student in a hands-on environmental capstone course

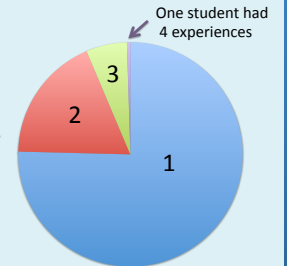


RESULTS

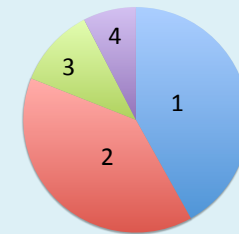
To date, approximately 25% of students have completed multiple 398 experiences.

Experiences per student

Percentage of all students participating in ANSC 398 (total = 220).



Students can earn up to 5 credit hours of ANSC 398 in a semester and 10 hours total



Credit hours per experience

Percentage of all experiences (total = 289).

CONCLUSIONS

Organization of diverse experiential learning opportunities under one course number with multiple sections provides important information about the range and nature of opportunities in which students engage.

- Student response, even in this short time, has been overwhelming.
- Students desire experiences outside the classroom.
- The breadth of experiences in our department is reflective of the interests of our students in non-traditional animal science species.