



Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Standards Reform (Phase II): Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Do these standards prescribe a specific instructional approach that the teacher must use?	The standards are written to provide teachers with better direction as to the content and expectations of what the student should be able to do, which allow the teacher to determine the best method of instruction to enhance the student's learning experience. Using an actual worksite would definitely be helpful, if available, but the student will need to be able to defend their reasons and factors that guided them to select the specific site.
Do all AFNR courses have to be offered in order as listed in the Program of Study (POS) with the "capstone" being given in a student's senior year?	Each course has specific prerequisites listed on the first page of the course standards document. It is recommended that students complete the prerequisite course(s) prior to taking the "capstone" course to optimize the progression of content knowledge and technical skills.
Will Applied Environmental Science or Veterinary Science replace any requirements for students to take another science class?	Yes, they will count as lab science credits. Biology and Chemistry are required for all students. Applied Environmental Science and Veterinary Science are being recommended by both Curriculum and Instruction and CTE to count as both CTE and a lab science credit toward graduation requirements.
Will further training be required for Highly Qualified (HQ) Agriscience teachers to make them qualified to teach the new Veterinary Science and the Applied Environmental Science courses?	No. As long as the teacher has the Agriscience endorsement (049 or 449), no additional certifications are required to teach the Applied Environmental Science or the Veterinary Science course. These courses will satisfy both a focus elective and a lab science credit.
Will instruction in FFA be included in Agriscience?	Yes. FFA is an integral part of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources student experience. All CTE courses include alignment to their respective Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO). The CTE division in the Tennessee Department of Education will also release materials aligning specific FFA competitive events with Common Core State Standards in Literacy for Technical Subjects. This will give teachers additional tools to help students meet the rigorous

	standards of the revised courses, FFA Career Development Events and activities.
Will there be a Production Animal Program of Study or only Pre-Vet?	In the 2013 CTE teacher survey, 33 percent of the teachers recommended reducing the number of programs of study (POS). This was the second most popular recommendation behind increased rigor in AFNR courses (44 percent of teachers recommended this change.) Veterinary Science and Production Animal POSs were combined into one POS, Veterinary and Animal Sciences, to better prepare the student with the skills to become a vet tech, vet assistant, veterinarian, or return to the family farm. Both of the previous POS had several content skill gaps resulting in a large number of special POS requests to attempt to properly prepare students. The relevant standards from the non-duplicated courses (i.e. Horse Science, Livestock Management and Animal Biotechnology) were used to develop the new Large Animal Science and revise the Veterinary Science course
Will the Horse Science course be offered?	The quality standards from the Horse Science course were used to develop the new Large Animal Science course. The Large Animal Science course has the quality standards from both the Horse Science and Livestock Management course. This course will better prepare the students for a variety of careers within the animal science industry. The previous Veterinary Science Program of Study (POS) had a large content gap (i.e. no livestock skills). This content gap was evident by the large number of Special POS requests and the need for large animal veterinarians in our state.
Will the Wildlife Management course no longer be available?	The quality standards from the wildlife management course standards were distributed among the different courses within the Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Program of Study (POS). According to the feedback from the AFNR Curriculum Advisory Council, the ENR POS was very narrow in content and needed to include additional content areas to adequately prepare students for careers and postsecondary transition. The course in this POS will allow students to build on a progression of skills needed for the vast career opportunities related to this career cluster area.
Will students be able to take Agricultural Power and Equipment and Agricultural Engineering only once?	All Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources courses are recommended for one credit per course. Contact the CTE division at the Tennessee

	Department of Education if you have specific local and community needs to award additional credits.
What if I am concerned that my students are not able to do this level of work?	Standards are structured to develop conceptual understanding of both technical and literacy skills in a logical progression. All students can meet postsecondary and career readiness expectations embedded in these standards with the correct supports.
What if I have students enrolled in my program not planning to attend college?	Data gathered from business and industry illustrates the skills and knowledge required for success in the workforce are identical to those required for success in postsecondary. Industry trends show the majority of current and future occupations will require some form of postsecondary training. It is our responsibility to prepare all students with the skills they need to be successful.
Are we now expected to be general education teachers in addition to teaching our AFNR content?	The AFNR standards naturally support general education standards through the instruction of AFNR content. Teachers are not expected to teach general education standards, rather should be able to show application of concepts in a contextual way.
Can I still offer Floral Design?	The quality standards from the Floral Design course were used to revise and develop the other courses within the Horticultural Science program of study. The Tennessee Department of Education has a process in place for the local school system to offer special courses to meet the needs of the community. Currently labor demands and trends will be required as part of the special course request.
Will the decrease in the number of AFNR courses lower the enrollment in our programs?	AFNR enrollment will only decrease if we do not continue to evolve our courses to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow. These changes should include the development of new courses. New topics such as Food Science, Natural Resource Management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will lead to an increase in enrollment in AFNR programs preparing students for new jobs in Tennessee as well as postsecondary.
Is there space in a high school student's schedule to complete a four-course Program of Study?	Most LEA's master schedules provide opportunities for students to receive elective credits in addition to the minimum credits required for graduation by State Board of Education policy. All AFNR programs of study

	include at least one course, such as Agriscience, which satisfy credits required for graduation as part of the logical sequence, allowing a student to fulfill graduation requirements while progressing through a program of study. We strongly encourage students, parents, and administrators to select a student's elective focus during their freshman year.
Will the revised Agricultural Business and Finance course satisfy the Personal Finance requirement for graduation?	Yes. Students will meet the graduation requirement for Personal Finance upon successful completion of the Agricultural Business and Finance course for Personal Finance credit. The teacher will need to complete the personal finance training prior to offering this course. [It is recommended that students complete the recommended prerequisites prior to being enrolled in the course to be successful.]
Is Agriscience the only foundation course?	Yes. According to AFNR teacher and CTE Director surveys, the top two recommendations were to reduce the number and duplication of programs of study. Agriscience is a high level course that simultaneously counts as an AFNR credit and satisfies a lab science credit required for graduation. High quality standards from the Principles of Agricultural and Horticultural Science courses were used during the revision process. This will provide more flexibility for both the student and the LEA in selecting the appropriate POS.
Since GPS and GIS standards make up about one-third of the course standards, am I expected to spend one-third of the school year teaching GPS and GIS?	No. The meaty standards include the content knowledge needed to prepare the student to be college and career ready. The number of standards in a course does not indicate how much time should be spent on the topic area or individual standards. This gives the teacher the flexibility to adequately prepare the student.
Since my program of study (POS) offered is no longer available, how can my students meet the focused elective graduation requirement?	Students who are currently studying under a particular program of study (POS), which has been affected by a CTE course revision, may be "grandfathered" in with their existing POS until completion. (In nearly all cases, however, the proposed revised and new CTE courses should not alter course sequencing reflected in existing programs of study.)