

Program Plan For Information Literacy

Major Program Turfgrass & Soil Science

Briefly describe how Information Literacy will be taught within your major program. List courses in which these skills will be embedded.

In Turfgrass & Soil Science, Information Literacy within the major will focus on coursework involving the use of current and past information contained in the literature and research-based projects and assignments within required courses in the major. From this focus, students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills based on information retrieved from the literature and the synthesis of new information discovered during research-based projects. Specific courses include TURF 224W and PLSC 217 that entail mandatory sessions with an academic liaison from the Homer Babbidge Library to acquaint students with library resources both print and online. Several courses, including HORT 214, 215, 231, 245, and PLSC 257 provide instruction in use of online databases for selection of plant materials and plant identification. TURF 220 and HORT 240W acquaint students with specialized professional and technical resources, both online and in print, for term papers and presentations. A research-based paper from an independent term project in PLSC 217 and TURF 224W requires citations from a literature search on the selected topic, and synthesis of the information into the project results and discussion presentation. Courses in plant materials, including TURF 124, HORT 214, 215, 231, and PLSC 257 include instruction on using taxonomic keys. From these courses, students will be trained in the following areas and will learn:

- use of electronic resources and databases for information acquisition within specific turf and soil science topics
- critical evaluation of existing scientific literature
- decisions on the use of appropriate electronic sources and the citation of other authors
- formulation of a research hypothesis, experimental methods, and decision making of hypotheses based on data results
- appropriate statistical analyses of data collected from term projects
- presentation of new scientific findings, in both written and oral formats.

Are all these courses required of your students? If not, how will you assure that all students attain the exit expectations for Information Literacy.

PLSC 217, and TURF 224W or HORT 240W are required of all Turfgrass and Soil Science Majors. Most students, however, enroll in the majority of the non-required courses listed above because of interest in the subject area. Subsets of courses in HORT and PLSC are required for students in the Turfgrass option of the major. Successful completion of PLSC 217 and TURF 224W would give students the necessary training and background to meet the exit expectations.

Date of Approval by Faculty or Appropriate Faculty Committee: 5 Feb 2007

Date of Approval by School/College C&C Committee 9 Feb 2007

Major Program contact person Karl Guillard

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