

**COORDINATING COMMISSION
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**140 N. 8th Street Suite 300
Lincoln Nebraska 68508**


Telephone: (402) 471-2847

Fax: (402) 471-2886

PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Form 92-40

Institution Submitting Proposal:	Southeast Community College
Title of Program:	Agricultural Teacher Education
CIP Code	13.1301
SOC Code	25-2032
Organizational Unit in which Program will be located:	Agriculture
Name of Contact Person in the event additional information is needed:	Bev Cummins, Vice President of Program Development and Lincoln Campus Director
Telephone:	402-437-2554
Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered	Associate of Applied Science
Proposal date to initiate program:	August 2025
List the location(s) where this program will be offered:	Beatrice, with some courses available online
If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:	N/A
Date Approved by Governing Board:	

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature: 

I. Purpose and Description of the Agricultural Teacher Education Program

Southeast Community College (SCC) proposes to establish an Associate of Applied Science of Agricultural Teacher Education. This degree is intended for students seeking to enter a career as a high school and/or middle school Agriculture Teacher. This program prepares individuals to transfer to a 4-year college or university to complete their training to earn a teaching certification for a position in the secondary education system. This program and curriculum plan was developed in cooperation with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources to create a dedicated 2+2 program path for students. A similar set of classes inside the current Ag Business focus has successfully been in use for several years to transfer Kansas State University for the same purpose. This proposal formalizes that transfer pathway as well.

The proposed Agricultural Teacher Education AAS degree is designed for individuals interested in working with high school and/or middle school students as they learn about career opportunities in the Agriculture industry. As a new Associate of Applied Science program, students would be provided with exposure to a specific set of Agriculture and General Education courses that will transfer efficiently to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Kansas State University, and others for a baccalaureate degree in Agriculture Education. K-12 institutions are eager to hire individuals skilled in this field because Agriculture Education teachers at the secondary level are retiring at a faster rate than they can be replaced, risking the need for schools to abandon their agriculture programs.

Program delivery includes instruction delivered in-person at the Beatrice Campus as well as several courses being offered online. As shown in the curriculum plan below, the Agricultural Teacher Education AAS degree combines the existing curriculum from the Ag Management & Production AAS Agronomy, Ag Business, and Diversified focuses as well as the Livestock Management & Production and Horticulture programs with one potential optional Ag Communication course to be developed.

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New or Existing Course?
ACFS 1015	Success@SCC	1.0	Existing
Ag Management & Production Core Courses:			
AGRI 1126	Intro to Livestock Production	3.0	Existing
AGRI 1131	Crop & Food Science	3.0	Existing
AGRI 1171	Ag Technology	2.0	Existing
AGRI 1205	Enterprise Analysis	3.0	Existing
Ag Education Core Courses:			
AGRI 1101 OR AGRI XXXX	Agriculture Photography & Photo Editing OR Ag Communication	3.0	Existing OR NEW
AGRI 1141	Livestock Management	4.0	Existing
AGRI 1153	Soils & Plant Nutrition	4.0	Existing
AGRI 1257	Live Animal Selection & Carcass Evaluation	2.0	Existing
AGRI 1258	Introduction to Meats	2.0	Existing
AGRI 1505	Intro to Ag Education & Early Field Experience	3.0	Existing
AGRI 2231	Applied Animal Reproduction	4.0	Existing
HORT 1130	Introduction to Horticulture	3.0	Existing
	Take one of the following:		

AGRI 1219	Motorized Ag Equipment	2.0	Existing
AGRI 1378	Electrical & Hydraulic Fundamentals		
AGRI 2212	Ag Machinery Maintenance		
AGRI 2279	Precision Technology		
WELD 1060	Basic OA/SMAW	4.0	Existing
WELD 1070	GMAW Theory and Lab	3.0	Existing
Total Agriculture Core		45	
General Education Requirements:			
COMM 1090	<u>Choose 1 of the following:</u> Fundamentals of Human Communication	3.0	Existing
COMM 1110/SPCH 1110	Public Speaking (Recommended)		
COMM 2100	Communicating in Groups and Teams		
COMM 2810	Business and Professional Communication		
ENGL 1010	<u>Choose 1 of the following:</u> English Composition I (Recommended)	3.0	Existing
ENGL 1010H	Composition Honors I		
ENGL 1054	Writing and Communities		
ENGL 1110	Business Communication		
ARTS 1010	<u>Choose 3 from the following:</u> Introduction to the Visual Arts	9.0 minimum	Existing
ANTH 1120	General Anthropology		
BIOS 1010	General Biology		
BIOS 1140	Human Anatomy		
BIOS 2130	Human Physiology		
BIOS 2250	Human Anatomy & Physiology I		
BIOS 2460	Microbiology		
BSAD 1010	Principles of Management		
BSAD 2540	Microsoft Applications I		
COMM 2100	Communicating in Groups and Teams		
COMM 2110	Intercultural Communication		
CHEM 1050	Chemistry and the Citizen (Recommended)		
CHEM 1090	General Chemistry I		
CRIM 1280	Forensic Science & Laboratory Techniques		
ECON 1200	Personal Finance		
ECON 2110	Principles of Macroeconomics (Recommended)		
ECON 2120	Principles of Microeconomics		
ENGR 1020	MATLAB Programming and Problem Solving		
ENTR 1050	Introduction to Entrepreneurship		
FSDT 1350	Basic Nutrition		
GEOG 1020	World Regional Geography		
GEOG 1400	Human Geography		
GEOG 1500	Physical Geography		
GEOL 1010	Physical Geology		
GEOL 1060	Environmental Geology		
GERM 1010	Beginning German I		
GLST 1000	Introduction to Global Studies		
GLST 2980	Global Studies Experience		
GSDT 1350	Basic Nutrition		
HIST 2010	American History I		
HIST 2020	American History II		
HIST 2100	World History to 1500 CE		
HIST 2110	World History since 1500 CE		
HLTH 1030	Structure and Function of the Body		
HUMS 1100	Introduction to Humanities		
MATH 1020	Technical Math		
MATH 1040	Business Math		
MATH 1050	Thinking Mathematically		
MATH 1100	Intermediate Algebra		

MATH 1150	College Algebra		
MATH 1200	Trigonometry (Recommended)		
MATH 1300	Pre-Calculus		
MATH 1400	Applied Calculus		
MATH 1600	Calculus I and Analytic Geometry		
MATH 2170/BSAD 2170	Applied Statistics		
MUSC 1010	Introduction to Music		
MUSC 2800	Introduction to World Music		
PHED 1000	Lifetime Wellness		
PHIL 1010	Introduction to Philosophy		
PHIL 1060	Applied Ethics		
PHIL 2610/RELS 2610	Comparative Religions		
PHYS 1017	Technical Physics		
PHYS 1030	Astronomy		
PHYS 1100	Physical Science		
PHYS 1150	Descriptive Physics		
PHYS 1410	Elementary General Physics		
PHYS 2110	General Physics I		
POLS 1000	American Government		
POLS 1080	Introduction to Political Science		
POLS 1600	Introduction to Psychology		
PSYC 1250	International Relations		
PSYC 1810	Interpersonal Relations		
SIGN 1010	Beginning American Sign Language I		
SOCI 1010	Introduction to Sociology		
SOCI 1020	Diversity in Society		
SOCI 2150	Issues of Unity and Diversity		
SPAN 1010	Elementary Spanish I		
THEA 1010	Introduction to Theatre		
Total General Education Core		15.0	
Total Credit Hours		61.0	

The program learning outcomes for the Agricultural Education program are as follows:

1. Students will learn and comprehend effective teaching strategies within agriculture education.
2. Students will gain quality hands on learning at SCC and be able to utilize those skills for their future career as a teacher.
3. Students will be eligible to transfer efficiently to a 4-year institution to finish a degree in Ag Education.

Graduates of the Agricultural Teacher Education program can be hired to work in the following jobs which relate to the associated Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code.

Common job titles for completers	Associated SOC Code
Career/Technical Education Teachers, Secondary School	25-2032.00
Career/Technical Education Teachers, Middle School	25-2023.00

II. Review Criteria

A. CENTRALITY TO ROLE AND MISSION

The mission of Southeast Community College is *to empower and transform the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities. The College provides dynamic and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs that contribute to personal, community, and workforce development.*

The creation of an AAS in Agricultural Teacher Education aligns with SCC's mission to provide accessible and responsive pathways for students to attain a credential that best serves the employment pathway they determine. The Agricultural Teacher Education AAS is intended for learners with varying backgrounds and needs, such as:

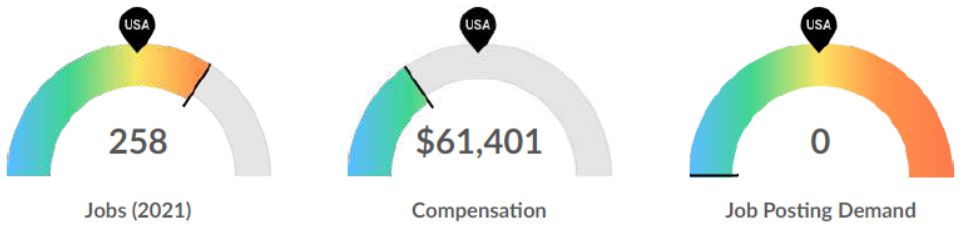
- f. Students that know they want to be part of the Agriculture industry.
- g. Students that know they want to be part of the Education system.
- h. Students that know they want to be part of helping middle school and secondary school students become aware of career paths in the Ag industry.

Additionally, this program conforms with what the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education states in the Comprehensive Plan for Postsecondary Education regarding the expectation for the community college's role and mission. "Community colleges provide educational options for students seeking career training or transfer to a four-year institution. The education program may culminate in an applied technology associate degree, diploma, or certificate; or an associate of arts or associate of science degree from an academic transfer program" (p. 7-7).

B. EVIDENCE OF NEED AND DEMAND

Workforce Need. According to *Lightcast Q2 2024 Data Set*, (www.economicmodeling.com), a company used by SCC to provide academic program evaluation data, in Nebraska, the regional employment data indicates there are a high number (258) of agricultural education jobs in our service area as compared to the national average (155) and regional employment is higher than the national average as indicated in the chart below. However, as noted, there are also too few job postings in SCC's 15-county service area to demonstrate a demand. However, regional employment in SCC's service area is higher than the national average with a 31.4% change between 2021 jobs to 2024 jobs.

Light Job Posting Demand Over a Deep Supply of Regional Jobs

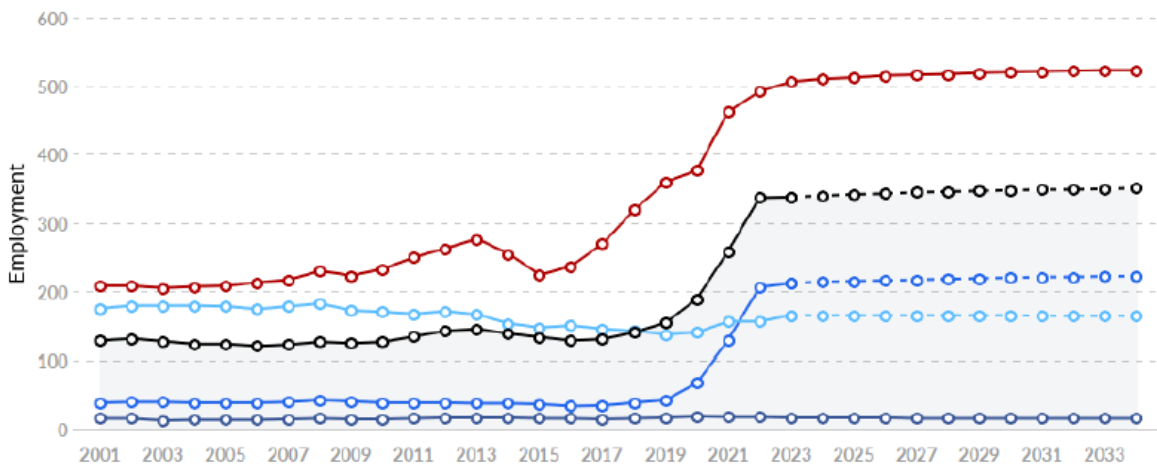


Jobs (2021)
Your area is a hotspot for this kind of job. The national average for an area this size is 155* employees, while there are 258 here.

Compensation
Earnings are low in your area. The national median salary for your occupations is \$64,977, compared to \$61,401 here.

Job Posting Demand
Reliable competition information is not available in your area because there are too few postings.

An average area of this size typically has 155* jobs, while there are 258 here. This higher than average supply of jobs may make it easier for workers in this field to find employment in your area.



Region	2021 Jobs	2024 Jobs	Change	% Change
● SCC service area	258	339	81	31.4%
● National Average	155	164	9	5.9%
● Lincoln, NE	128	213	84	65.8%
● Beatrice, NE	17	16	-1	-7.6%
● Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	462	510	48	10.4%

Currently the University of Nebraska is the only program in the state that offers an Agriculture Teacher Education program. As noted, they had 21 completions in 2023.



	Completions (2023)	% Completions	Institutions (2023)	% Institutions
● All Programs	21	100%	1	100%
● Distance Offered Programs	0	0%	0	0%
● Non-Distance Offered Programs	21	100%	1	100%

The following data was shared by the UNL Agriculture program:

- Today, 218 school districts offer agricultural education and FFA in Nebraska. This is an increase from 133 schools in 2010, adding 85 schools that have had to hire a teacher. This represents a 64% increase in 14 years.
- During this same timeframe, many schools have added a second or third agriculture teacher. Today, there are 258 positions in Nebraska.
- Nebraska traditionally hovered between 20-35 open positions in a single year. In the last five years, we've averaged 57 open positions.
- In total, 70 schools advertised to fill 2024-2025 academic year teaching positions. Over 25 of these positions went either unfilled or filled by a teacher who did not hold the proper teaching certificate with agricultural education endorsement. This is a risk for Nebraska's largest industry, especially if schools choose to close agricultural education programs due to a lack of qualified teachers. (This also has the potential to impact post-secondary agriculture programs.)

As Dr. Matt Kreifels noted in his correspondence of 9/24/24, "Agriculture is Nebraska's largest and most vital industry, impacting nearly every other sector and heavily influencing the state's economy. The agricultural industry is experiencing a shortage of college graduates from agricultural degree programs, prompting school districts to start or expand their local secondary programs. While we have been fortunate to see the investment from school districts to hire teachers and start agricultural education and FFA programs, Nebraska needs more students to consider becoming agriculture teachers to meet the demand. A 2+2 associate to bachelor's degree pathway opens this possibility to students who may never have considered teaching. We're grateful to partner with Southeast Community College to provide a quality hands-on experience in agriculture that can be coupled with UNL's leading agricultural teacher preparation program—providing students with a unique pathway to their future classrooms that melds the best parts of both institutions." UNL has drafted a transfer agreement plan for 60 credit hours of courses in the Ag Teacher Education program, where they would complete an additional 60 hours to earn a BS in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. Many of SCC the Agriculture program graduates transfer all AAS credits to Kansas State University, who are also working on a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture.

Student Demand. According to Gray & Associates, an Agricultural Teacher Education program in our service area demonstrates low student searches, but the 94th percentile for new student enrollment and growth. A 2+2 partnership between SCC and UNL can provide an appealing pathway for students interested in agriculture career opportunities.

Student Demand	
Score: 13	Percentile: 94

Competitive Intensity	
Score: 4	Percentile: 77

Category	Pctl	Criterion	Value	Score
Size	0	Google Search Volume (12 Months)*	NA	NS
	92	International Page Views (12 Months)	0	NS
	95	New Student Enrollment Volume (12 Mo.)	12	2
	0	On-ground Completions at In-Market Institutions	31	3
	95	Online Completions by In-Market Students	0	0
Growth		Sum of On-ground and Online Completions	31	3
	94	Google Search YoY Change (Units)*	NA	NS
	98	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (Units)	5	1
		Completion Volume YoY Change (Units)	8	2
	75	Google Search YoY Change (%)*	NA	NS
	78	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (%)	70%	1
	Completion Volume YoY Change (%)	35%	1	

Category	Pctl	Criterion	Value	Score
Volume of In-Market Competition	96	Campuses with Graduates**	1	2
	50	Campuses with Grads YoY Change (Units)**	0	NS
	0	Institutions with Online In-Market Students**	0	0
In-Market Program Sizes	79	Average Program Completions	31	0
	84	Median Program Completions	31	1
	94	YoY Median Prog. Compl. Change (Units)	8	1
In-Market Saturation	75	YoY Median Prog. Compl. Change (%)	35%	0
		Google Search * Cost per Click**	NA	NS
		Google Competition Index**	NA	NS
National Online Competition	65	Natl Online Institutions (Units)**	2	NS
	50	Natl Online % of Institutions	3%	NS
	46	Natl Online % of Completions	1%	NS

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

1. Faculty and Staff Resources

The Agriculture Management & Production program currently has sufficient full-time faculty and pool of adjunct faculty qualified to teach. The current faculty will develop an optional Agriculture Communication course. Courses will be offered online and in-person at the Beatrice Campus. No additional full-time faculty would be required to create the Agricultural Teacher Education AAS, and new courses would be taught by current full-time and adjunct instructors. The Agriculture Division will provide support staffing and administrative oversight.

Courses will be offered throughout the academic year, and we will continue to enroll students every semester. It is difficult to predict if there will be an impact on enrollment at this time. We anticipate beginning with 10 students and adding an additional 10 students each year. While they will be identified and advised as students in the Agricultural Teacher Education AAS, the students will always be in classes with other students in other Ag Focus areas. The minimum number of students to make the program viable is 8.

2. Physical Facilities and Instructional Equipment

With most courses offered in general purpose classrooms, existing Agriculture Program Classrooms/Labs, or online, there are no facility needs at this time.

3. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources

No additional equipment is needed for the Agricultural Teacher Education AAS. Virtual library and technology resources are already in place to support all distance learners. Sufficient library staff, library resources and information technology resources are in place at the Beatrice campus location to support the students and program.

4. **Budget Projections**

As stated previously, the creation of the AAS in Agricultural Teacher Education will utilize the current full-time faculty and adjunct instructors and where needed, hire additional adjunct faculty. The tuition rates are projections based on past trends as no rates have been set by the SCC Board of Governors for the 2025-2026 academic year. Salary increases are projections based on past trends of a 3% total compensation increase. Because the new courses to be developed will utilize existing faculty with course-load reductions, no new faculty or staff needs to be hired and no new equipment needs to be purchased, we do not anticipate any new expenses associated with this proposal. Please see the Revenue and Expense Projections.

C. AVOIDANCE OF UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION

Program faculty collaborated directly with administrators from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at their request, to develop this new program, providing an additional pathway for students to enter the field of Agricultural Education.

D. CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The proposed AAS in Agricultural Teacher Education is consistent with Nebraska's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education. The program will provide education "...that prepares students for productive and fulfilling lives..." and "...enhances workforce development..." Specifically, the Comprehensive Statewide Plan directs institutions to "provide specialized certification programs in professional, technical, and vocational fields that address regional and state needs" (p. 3-3). Given the current demand for Middle School and Secondary School Ag Education majors detailed previously, SCC's proposed AAS in Agricultural Teacher Education degree is consistent with this goal.

Revenue-Expense Projections

TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

	(FY2025-26)		(FY2026-27)		(FY2027-28)		(FY2028-29)		(FY2029-30)		Total	
	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		FTE	Cost
Personnel	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Faculty*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate assistants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Support staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating												
General Operating		\$10,000		\$10,000		\$12,000		\$12,000		\$14,000		\$58,000
Equipment		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$2,000		\$10,000
New or renovated space		0		0		0		0		0		0
Library/Information Resources		0		0		0		0		0		0
Other		\$3,000		\$3,000		\$3,000		\$3,000		\$3,000		\$15,000
Subtotal		\$15,000		\$15,000		\$17,000		\$17,000		\$19,000		\$83,000
Total Expenses		\$15,000		\$15,000		\$17,000		\$17,000		\$19,000		\$83,000

* Courses will be taught by current faculty.

TABLE 2: REVENUE SOURCES FOR PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

	(FY2025-2026)	(FY2026-2027)	(FY2027-2028)	(FY2028-2029)	(FY2029-2030)	Total
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Reallocation of Existing Funds	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Required New Public Funds	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
State Funds/Local Tax	0	0	0	0	0	\$0
Tuition and Fees	32CH x 10 students x \$127 = \$40,600	32CH x 20 x \$130 = \$83,200	32CH x 20 x \$134 = \$85,760	32CH x 20 x \$138 = \$88,320	32CH x 20 x \$142 = \$90,880	\$486,600
Other Funding						
Total Revenue	\$40,600	\$83,200	\$85,760	\$88,320	\$90,880	\$388,760