

# Alliance for Cooperative Course Exchange in the Plant Sciences



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# Problems Facing Plant Science Curricula

- Loss of teaching positions  
“critical number of teaching  
faculty”
- Conversion of teaching positions  
to research positions
- Need for a specific class dictating  
position descriptions

# Problems Facing Plant Science Curricula

- Lack of teaching resources (\$\$\$) to meet emerging needs
- “Under-enrolled” courses
- Potential loss of an entire curriculum

# Problem Solving



- In 2006, a team of faculty formed to evaluate approaches to addressing these problems.
- With one exception, this team had worked together on previous projects.
  - Virtual Field Trips (USDA HEC)
  - Research projects

# The Team

## Faculty and Deans/Associate Deans

- Michael Evans - University of Arkansas
- Richard Harkess - Mississippi State University
- Janet Cole - Oklahoma State University
- Jeff Kuehny - Louisiana State University

# Plans and Funding

- Numerous conference calls and months of “brain storming” and writing
- USDA Higher Education Planning Grant for \$50,000 (2006)
  - Develop a plan for a course sharing system

# USDA Planning Grant

- Five planning sessions were conducted.
- One session at each institution with a specific set of objectives at each planning session.
- All inclusive
  - Department Heads
  - Registrars
  - Financial Officers
  - Continuing and distance education specialist

# USDA Planning Grant

- Great Plains IDEA  
(Interactive Distance Education Alliance)
  - Graduate Degree Programs (Social Sciences)
    - MOU
    - By Laws
    - Financial Agreement
    - Student Acknowledgement Form (FERPA)
  - University Engineering Alliance
    - Shared on-line courses in nuclear engineering



# USDA HEC Grant Proposal

Fifth and final Planning Meeting

Little Rock, Arkansas - Lock-in



# USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant

- Submitted and funded in 2008
  - Letters of support and agreement to cooperate from industry, faculty and administration

\$500,000 to implement ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S  
Alliance for Cooperative Course  
Exchange in the Plant Sciences





**PATIENCE**

is not about  
*waiting,*

but the ability to

keep a *good attitude*  
while

**WORKING HARD**

for what you believe in

# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- We are NOT a consortium or alliance
- Each University is regarded as an independent contractor
- Coordinating Institution (UA)
- MOA approved by the governing boards of the University Systems
  - MOU
  - By Laws
  - Financial Agreement

# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S offers a “buffet” of **courses** that participating institutions may utilize in **their respective curricula**.
- Participating institutions may utilize the courses in their respective curricula.

# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- Students register under course numbers belonging to the home institution.
- Equivalent prerequisites available at home institution will be determined.
  - Courses and Curriculum
- Courses are designed to be flexible with respect to differing semester calendars.
  - Semi-synchronous

# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- Policies, grading, etc. follow the policies of the students' home institution.
- Tuition rates will be those of the home institution.
- Tuition will be paid to the home institution.



# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S is managed by a Board of Directors according to the by-laws.
  - Four founding faculty
- A portion of the tuition (20%) from ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S courses is used to operate the program

# How Does ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S Function?

- From the students' perspective, only the method of content delivery is different.
- From the advisors' perspective, there are no differences between traditional courses and ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S courses.



- Coordination of merged course rosters (Student Clearinghouse)
- Reporting of grades
- Invoicing institutions
- Annual reports

## Eight Courses Developed and Offered By ACCEPtS (2009)

Course	Offering Institution	Instructor
Greenhouse Management	University of Arkansas	Evans
Organic/Sustainable Horticulture	University of Arkansas	Rom and Garcia
Agricultural Plant Physiology	Louisiana State University	Kuehny and Labonte
International Horticulture	Louisiana State University	Picha
Plant Growth and Development	Mississippi State University	Harkess
Sustainable Landscaping	Mississippi State University	Schauwecker
Temperature Stress Physiology	Oklahoma State University	Anderson
Sustainable Nursery Production	Oklahoma State University	Cole

# Hort 4703 Greenhouse Management

IAA

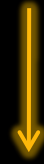
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graph BT; H4020[Hort 4020 - LSU] --> IAA[IAA]; PSS4333[PSS 4333-MSU] --> IAA; H4113[Hort 4113 -OSU] --> IAA; IAA --> H4703[Hort 4703 Greenhouse Management]
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Hort 4020 - LSU

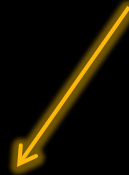
PSS 4333-MSU

Hort 4113 -OSU

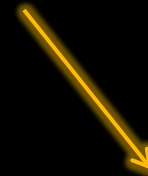
# Hort 4703 Greenhouse Management



IAA



Hort 4020 - LSU



PSS 4333-MSU



Hort 4113 - OSU

# Tuition Exchange

- 65% to teaching institution
- 15% to students' home institution
- 20% to ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S program
  
- Where the teaching institution is the students' home institution 100% of tuition remains with teaching institution

# Tuition Exchange

Institution	Tuition & Fees per credit hour	65%	15%	20%
LSU	\$245.35	\$160	\$36	\$49
MSU	\$246.50	\$160	\$36	\$50
OSU	\$147.50	\$96	\$21	\$30
UA	\$211.77	\$138	\$32	\$42

Each receiving University pays their tuition rate to the teaching University.







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# Invoice

Customer ID: SP2014-LSU  
 Date: June 6, 2014  
 Invoice #: SP2014-LSU

Direct To: Jere Townsend, Accounting Technician  
 jtownsend@agcenter.lsu.edu  
 Louisiana State University  
 School of Plant, Environmental &  
 Soil Sciences  
 104G M.B. Sturgis Hall  
 Baton Rouge LA 70803-2110

HORT 4543 Sustainable Nursery Production-GR					
Alliance Course Number: PS 6363					
Student Name	Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour	Refund	NET	Teaching Share, 65%
	3	369.14		\$1,107.42	\$ 719.82
				<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$ 719.82</b>
				<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>\$719.82</b>

HORT 4543 Sustainable Nursery Production-UG					
Alliance Course Number: PS 4363					
Student Name	Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour	Refund	NET TUITION	Teaching Share, 65%
	3	245.35		\$736.05	\$ 478.43
	3	\$736.05		\$736.05	\$ 478.43
	3	\$736.05		\$736.05	\$ 478.43
	3	\$736.05		\$736.05	\$ 478.43
	3	\$736.05		\$736.05	\$ 478.43
	3	\$736.05	368.02	\$368.03	\$ 239.22
	3	\$736.05	368.02	\$368.03	\$ 239.22
	3	\$736.05	662.45	\$73.60	\$ 47.84
	3	\$736.05	736.05	\$0.00	
				<b>SUB Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,396.87</b>
				<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>\$3,396.87</b>

**Total Amount Due \$4,116.70**

LSU tuition rate paid to OSU

# Tuition Exchange

- Self-generated account
  - Accepts expenditures and revenue transactions

# Course Management Systems

LSU – Moodle

MSU – Blackboard

UA – Blackboard

OSU - Angel

# ACCEPTs Web Site

<http://accepts.uark.edu/>

# Moodle Hort Phys Web Site

<http://moodle2.outreach.lsu.edu/course/view.php?id=164>

# The Future of ACCEP<sub>t</sub>S

- Additional institutions may join as full members or as affiliate members.

# ACCCEPS

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ALLIANCE FOR COOPERATIVE COURSE EXCHANGE IN THE PLANT

SCIENCES

