



CAL POLY

Agricultural Specialist Professional Certificate

The courses offered in the Agricultural Specialist Professional Certificate program will prepare students to uphold the professional teaching requirements for the Specialist Agriculture credential, while not being able to receive the credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Students completing the professional certificate program will be prepared for a career in agricultural education having met the course requirements for the Specialist Agriculture credential. To meet these program goals, the agricultural specialist curriculum requires that students successfully complete a total of 15 units. *Individuals who hold the Specialist Agriculture teaching credential or are eligible by holding a Single Subject Agriculture teaching credential are not eligible for this certificate program.*

Professional Certificate Objectives

Upon completing the requirements for the graduate certificate, students should be able to:

1. Integrate youth leadership and experiential agriculture project programs into the secondary agriculture curriculum.
2. Organize and manage laboratories, including agricultural mechanics curriculum, assessments, data analysis, and evaluation.
3. Implement techniques in management and supervision of programs in agricultural education including development of creating professional relationships among students, staff, and school and community groups.
4. Develop and assess an integrated agriculture program in the comprehensive high school based on occupational opportunities, community needs, and the philosophical underpinnings of career and technical education.

Professional Certificate Course Requirements

- **AGED S530**-Developing FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs in Secondary Education-3 Units. Offered as a part of late Spring coursework every other year (alternated with AGED 523)
- **AGED 513**-Field Experience Agricultural Education. 6 Units split into two 3-unit courses. Offered stateside Winter and Spring quarters as field experience course
- **AGED 520**-Program Development in Agricultural Education. 3 Units. Offered stateside Spring quarter as online course
- **AGED S523**-Laboratory Organization and Management in Agricultural Education. 3 Units. Offered as a part of late Spring coursework every other year (alternated with AGED S530)



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To Obtain the Professional Certificate

1. Contact the program coordinator so that they may review your transcripts for eligibility or provide information on how/when to register for necessary classes.
2. Submit the [Agricultural Specialist Professional Certificate Application for Program Completion form](#) by the *Friday of week 10 of the Cal Poly quarter in the quarter you are completing your program coursework.*
3. The program coordinator will recommend individuals for the certificate based on course completion at the end of the quarter applying in.
4. Individuals satisfying requirements will be forwarded to the Extended Education office for certificate generation; this will only occur once per quarter after final coursework has been verified.
5. Successful program completers will receive their printable digital certificate via email approximately 2-4 weeks after the start of the next quarter. Those applying in Spring quarter will not receive certificates until approximately 4 weeks after the end of the late spring session courses. *The certificate itself will be proof of the certification, there is no notation on the transcript.*

Program Coordinator Contact Information

Dr. Erin Gorter, ekthomps@calpoly.edu