



West Virginia AGED NEWS and VIEWS

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Harry N. Boone, Jr., Ph.D., Editor

Removing the Myths about Graduate School

by Harry N. Boone, Jr.

It's nearing the end of the school year and time for many of you to start thinking about taking classes to renew your teacher certification and/or work on completing your master's degree. As we near the time for classes to start, we often receive a number of questions about the application to graduate school and registration processes. The purpose of this article is to answer a number of those questions for you.

Application to Graduate School

To enroll in graduate school classes at West Virginia University, you must be an "active" graduate student. To become an active graduate student you must complete an application and pay the \$50.00 nonrefundable service fee. Here you are faced with your first choice: do you apply to WVU online or use the traditional paper application. For additional information on this choice visit the WVU website at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/admissions/applications.html>.

Degree or Non-Degree Status

Once you start the application forms you are faced with a second choice. Are you pursuing a degree or do you want to be admitted as a non-degree student? A non-degree student is someone who is only interested in taking courses and has no interest in completing a degree. Someone who is only interested in working on the plus 15, plus 30, or plus 45 hour endorsements fits this category. The advantage of the non-degree option is that your status will never become inactive forcing you to reapply and pay the service fee again. The disadvantage of the non-degree status is that if you change your mind, no more than twelve "non-degree" hours can be applied to a degree program.

Acceptance Process

If you decide to register as a degree student, you must be formally accepted into the program. Each program has its own criteria but most programs will have a minimum GPA (2.50 – 2.75), require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE or GMAT), require a "purpose statement" and/or require letters of recommendation.

Once you start a degree program you will have a specific time limit to finish the degree (usually seven years) and an expectation that you will take courses on a regular basis. If you fail to take a least one course in any twenty-four month period, you will be dropped from the "active" status. To enroll in courses and continue the program you will have to reapply to the program and pay another service fee.

An application can take up to four to six weeks to process. When the Office of Admissions and Records determines the applicant meets minimum university standards, the application is sent to the respective College. The College forwards the application to the Division and the Division sends it to the Department. The student must be accepted by the Department before he/she can take courses.

Keep the following items in mind as you formulate your plans.

1. Once you complete a graduate degree you must submit a new application and pay the nonrefundable service fee to take additional courses.
2. Students may transfer credit from other institutions accredited regionally at the graduate level, however, there is a limit of twelve hours (programs requiring 30-41 hours) that may be accepted for credit.
3. Non-degree graduate students are not permitted to transfer credit to WVU from another institution.

Professional Development and S/U Credits

Professional development credit (designated by a 900–950 course level) is available for professionals seeking graduate credits, but not pursuing a degree. Professional development credit cannot be applied to a graduate degree. Courses graded "pass-fail" will not count toward a graduate degree. Courses graded "satisfactory or unsatisfactory (S/U)" must be approved by the associate provost for academic programs.

Plan of Study

Early in your program, usually by the completion of six to nine credit hours of gradu-

ate coursework, you and your advisor will draw up a plan of study to show the student's direction. This plan of study becomes a part of the student's record and constitutes, with some degree of specificity, the terms and conditions that the student must meet for completing the degree requirements. Subsequent changes in the plan of study must be approved by the student and the advisor.

Master of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education

The Master of Science in Agricultural and Extension Education is designed for professionals in agricultural and extension education, including individuals interested in international development. A minimum of thirty hours is required for the completion of the degree including twenty-four hours of coursework. The coursework includes courses in research methodology and statistics. A research thesis is also required. Thesis topics of graduate students are primarily focused on understanding and solving problems in the broad fields of agricultural and extension education.

Master of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences

The Master of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences degree requires the completion of thirty-six hours of graduate-level coursework. A minimum of eighteen hours must be selected from among graduate courses available within two divisions of the Davis College, with no fewer than six hours in either division. No more than twelve hours of special topics or independent study may be counted towards the degree.

Additional Questions

I am hopeful that this will answer many of your questions about the graduate education in Agricultural and Extension Education. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at hboone@wvu.edu or call me at (304) 293-4832 ext. 4481.

State 4-H and FFA Equine Contest

by Harry N. Boone, Jr.

The 2009 State 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Potomac State College of WVU in Keyser, WV. The address and phone number for Potomac State College of WVU is 101 Fort Ave., Keyser, WV 26726; phone 1-304-788-6800. Contact information:

Sandra D. Smith, Agriculture & Forestry Coordinator, SDSmith@mail.wvu.edu or phone 304-788-6866 or cell 304-813-8497;

Angela L. Kirk, Equine Coordinator, ALKirk@mail.wvu.edu or phone 304-788-6883 or cell 304-813-8417; and

Dr. Kerry Odell, Campus Provost, Kerry.Odell@mail.wvu.edu or phone 304-788-6810.

Directions to Potomac State College of WVU are as follows:

From Morgantown, take I-68 East to Cumberland, MD. At Cumberland, take Exit 42 (Greene Street) to Route 220 South. Route 220 South will bring you into Keyser, WV, (approximately 20 miles from Cumberland, MD). Once in Keyser, turn right on to State Street (5th street on your right) follow the street to the top of the hill at Church McKee. Parking will be available in the parking lot to the left of the building.

Lunch

Potomac State College of WVU will be providing a picnic style lunch. The cost will be \$5.00. Seniors will be served lunch first in a group and must remain together to eat lunch and prepare oral reasons. Once seniors have finished eating they will be taken to Church McKee for oral reasons. Lunches must be pre-ordered and pre-paid.

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 AM	Judges Orientation & Records Room Prep (Church McKee)
8:15-8:45 AM	Registration – Church McKee Lobby
8:45-9:00 AM	Orientation – Church McKee Auditorium
9:00 AM	Proceed to Equine Arena and Begin Placing Classes
12 Noon	Lunch – Under Tent at Arena
Seniors will be served lunch first. Once Seniors have finished eating they will be taken to Church McKee for Oral Reasons.	
1:00-3:15 PM	Tentative Program for Junior Contestants and Adults Campus and Facilities Tour -- Farm Tour and Equine Demonstration
3:30 PM	Awards Ceremony – Church McKee Auditorium
4:30 PM	Homeward Bound

There will be no refunds after the registration deadline. **Deadline to order lunches is April 1, 2009.** Make checks payable to: Potomac State College of WVU. One check per county/school is requested.

T-shirts

Potomac State College will also be providing a complimentary t-shirt to all participants and up to two coaches per county/school. Please indicate how many of the following sizes that you need. Please indicate on the lunch form the sizes needed. T-shirt Sizes (Adults): 2XL, XL, L, M, S. Additional T-Shirts and other items can be purchased at the Potomac State Bookstore.

Program

The contest will possibly include 2-4 halter classes, with a set of oral reasons on one or two classes; and possibly 2-3 performance classes with oral reasons on one of them. This could make a total of 2-3 oral reasons for seniors. Notes will not be allowed when presenting oral reasons.

Scoring

We will implement the same scoring computer program for the State 4-H and FFA Contest. Please note: Important!! Contestants must possess two #2 pencils and clipboard for marking scantron scoring sheets. Make certain that contestants darken the correct placing for the class they are evaluating. Don't mark Class 1 if you are starting with Class 2. All possible sections for placing class are located from top to bottom under each class. On placing classes (Halter & Performance) - darken in your choice for the placing of the class. This section is located in the upper right hand corner of the scantron sheet.

Specific Rules:

- A. Classes: All classes will consist of four horses. Halter classes will be numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4; left to right from the rear. Riders of performance classes will have an exhibitor number (1, 2, 3, and 4). Fifteen minutes will be allowed to place halter classes and ten minutes to place performance classes.
- B. Performance horses will be shown at a walk, trot, canter, and at a hand gallop in the case of English Pleasure. The horse will also be asked to back and stand quietly. Horses should be judged on manners, way of going, and response to the rider.
- C. The four animals in each class will hopefully be of the same breed, sex, and appropriate age. Some classes may be mixed, via sex or ages depending upon donor horses available.
- D. The contest officials will attempt to select only horses that are serviceably sound. All halter classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind, and mouth. Performance horses will be judged as seen (unsoundness to be penalized accordingly). All tack and attire is considered legal.
- E. Breeds that may be included at the contest:

Halter - Quarter Horses, Arabians, Appaloosa, Paso Fino, Draft Breeds, Miniature Horses, and Thoroughbreds

Performance - Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Saddle Seat Pleasure, Hunter Hack. Also possibilities could be Western Horsemanship and Hunt Seat Equitation however these would not be reasons classes.

AGEE Student Teacher Assignments

Spring 2009

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Cooperating Teacher(s)</i>
Atwell, Andrew	South Garrett High School	Steve Kisner
Dent, Cody	Preston County High School	Ronald Wilson, Laah Wolford, & Eric Frederick
Gleason, Stacey	Preston County High School	Ronald Wilson, Laah Wolford & Eric Frederick
Miller, Lee Ann	Cameron High School	Russell Dotson & John Smith
Rice, Joshua	Hundred High School	Virgil Wilkins
Surgeon, Sandy	Shady Springs High School	Joseph McDougal & James May
Workman, John	Wirt County High School	Nathan Taylor

Fall 2009

<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Cooperating Teacher(s)</i>
Brown, Kari	Tyler Consolidated High School	Leon Ammons
Carson, Ashley	Taylor County Tech. Center	Steve Tennant
Clever, William	Jefferson High School	Mitchell Fincham, Jeremy Green & Charity Marsteller
Kimble, Lacy	Mineral County Vo-Tech Center	Ms. Carol Webb
Kisamore, Danielle	Jefferson High School	Mitchell Fincham, Jeremy Green, Charity Marsteller

HERE BY THE OWL



This year the West Virginia FFA Foundation is working to start a scholarship for FFA members who are seeking a career to become an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor. FFA students are quick to thank parents, grandparents, and others who help mentor, guide and inspire their success in life and desire for agriculture. We recognize winning crop yields but rarely the soil. We are asking individuals and businesses to make a donation to honor a past or present agriculture teacher, the soil, who has influenced your successful life. This donation can be any financial amount. A \$50.00 donation on behalf of an Agriculture Education Teacher would greatly be appreciated. The foundation wants to present the first Agricultural Education Teacher's Scholarship at the State FFA Convention in July of 2009.

The WV FFA Foundation was established to provide financial assistance to WV FFA members through scholarships, awards and travel assistance to National events. This financial assistance is provided by funds generated by interest from the Foundation funds. A gift to the WV FFA Foundation is a donation, which keeps helping WV FFA members "forever", because the foundation only makes awards from interest generated each year.

Please send your donation and name of honoree to: WV FFA Foundation
c/o William C. West
210 West Street
Ripley, WV 25271

Thank you for being a WV FFA Foundation supporter..

LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

State 4-H and FFA Horse Judging Contest
April 25, 2009

_____ County/School will have the following participants desiring lunch at the State 4-H and FFA Horse Judging Contest.

Meals Needed:

_____ Junior Participants
 _____ Senior Participants
 _____ Extension Workers/Ag. Ed. Educators
 _____ Adult Volunteer Leaders
 _____ **Total Reservations for Lunch**

T-shirt Sizes Need:

2XL _____
 XL _____
 L _____
 M _____
 S _____

Signed: _____

Make check payable to: **Potomac State College of WVU**. Return this form and check to **Jean Woloshuk, Extension Specialist**, 4-H Youth Agriculture, 1062 Ag Sciences Building, PO Box 6108, Morgantown, WV 26506-6108 – by **April 1, 2009**. You must **pre-register and pre-pay** for lunches ordered. Picnic Lunch will be served under the tent at the Arena. Cost is \$5.00 each.

Important Dates

Apr 2	WV FFA Alumni Steering Committee	Morgantown
Apr 3	Governing Body Meeting	Morgantown
Apr 10	Beef Expo and WV Grasslands Contest	Jackson's Mill
Apr 23-24	WV Envirothon	
Apr 25	FFA and 4-H Equine Judging Contest	Keyser
Jul 8-11	WV State FFA Convention	Cedar Lakes
Jul 29-31	Technical and Adult Education Conference	
Aug 16	4-H & FFA Dairy Cattle CDE	Jackson's Mill

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