

AG-NGINE: Agriculture National Graduate Institutional Name Exchange

Concept: Create a national online database of prospective graduate students in the agricultural, natural resources, human, and related sciences using as a model the Engineering National Graduate Institutional Name Exchange (ENGINE) established by the University of Florida's Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (<https://engine.eng.ufl.edu>).

The purpose of AG-NGINE would be to enhance graduate student recruitment and placement by land-grant institutions and non-land-grant agriculture and renewable resources universities (NARRU) through facilitated exchange of prospective student information across institutions. Many institutions and graduate programs have the goal of increasing their pool of high-achieving students, domestic students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents), and those historically underrepresented in our disciplines.

Participating institutions would annually encourage undergraduate junior/senior students with a 3.0 or higher upper-division GPA and master's students who are interested in pursuing doctoral degrees to self-enter data for the AG-NGINE database. Data collection would occur between April and August. Data collected would include name, current institution, current major, GPA, graduation date, graduate degree of interest, graduate major(s) of interest, preferred term of enrollment, gender and/or identities, ethnicity, citizenship, email address, cell phone number. Institutions would compile data for upload into the AG-NGINE database using provided templates. Data are then uploaded between August 15 and September 1. Participating institutions would subsequently be able to search and download student data (mid-September – mid-October) to use in graduate recruiting.

To establish AG-NGINE, we are seeking a commitment from ACOP and ESCOP for three years to establish the database, develop and implement the working documents, and establish and grow the institutional contacts and communication channels. AG-NGINE will require a single host institution to manage the database and overall initiative. The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (UF/IFAS-CALS) has expressed interest in hosting. Expressions of interest for hosting AG-NGINE can be sought from other institutions. Hosting by UF/IFAS-CALS has the advantage of mirroring internal systems and protocols with ENGINE. UF/IFAS-CALS would provide templates for student data entry and institution compilation of data, and would also securely store uploaded student data, manage communication with institutional contacts and provide access to the final database.

In year 1 (2023) AG-NGINE would be pilot tested with the 29 land-grant institutions that currently participate in ENGINE. The list of participating LGU institutions is at the end of this document. Through the participation of their respective Colleges of Engineering, these institutions have approved the required university-level documentation. In years 2-3 (2024 & 2025) we would expand participation to all land-grant and NARRU institutions.

We anticipate the initial start-up phase will require at least three annual cycles to fully establish systems, processes, and expansion before achieving the maintenance phase. Start-up phase funding is estimated at \$60,000 per year and would support partial salaries for staff and consultation with Mike Nazareth who created ENGINE. In years 2-3 (2024 & 2025) additional funding will be sought through a USDA NIFA grant application to expand participation to all land-grant and NARRU institutions. The annual maintenance budget is estimated at ~\$20,000. The annual budget would be proposed, reviewed, and approved each year. An advisory committee made up of representatives from ACOP and ESCOP would be tasked with developing a sustainable, long-term operations and funding plan.

ENGINE Participating Institutions

Auburn University
Colorado State University
Iowa State University
Louisiana State University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California-Davis
University of California-Berkeley
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
University of Nevada, Reno
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
West Virginia University