1. Goals for Student Learning
   When students complete the MPS Plant Protection Program they should be able to:
   1. Understand the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the distinct disciplines of entomology, plant pathology, and weed science.
   2. Design and employ pest control strategies based on a thorough understanding of a crop as part of an ecosystem and management of pest populations to keep them below economically acceptable limits.
   3. Be able to monitor pest populations and weather and integrate this information into management decisions throughout the growing season.
   4. Be knowledgeable about the pest complex in a variety of agricultural crops
   5. Be able to convey pest management information to growers and advise them in making management decisions for different crops on their farms.

2. Gathering and Using Information about Student Achievement of the Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Goals Addressed</th>
<th>Use of the Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admitted students must choose a Special Committee that includes 2-3 members representing the key disciplines involved in plant protection to advise the student in choosing appropriate courses and designing an MPS project</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>The Special Committee determines which courses in plant protection and crop production are needed to help the student meet their career objectives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student develops an MPS project that must demonstrate the candidate’s ability to assess a field problem, develop solutions, and communicate the results of the study.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>The project report is submitted to the Special Committee so that they can evaluate if it meets program goals for learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student must complete a minimum of one growing season as a Trainee in one of New York’s extension pest management programs or an equivalent experience</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>The supervisor must submit a report of the student’s performance during the Traineeship to the Special Committee so they can decide if the student needs additional course work or practical field experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student must submit an MPS Project report to the Special Committee</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>The Special Committee will evaluate the Project Report to determine if the student has meet the goals for student learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The student must complete a final exam that can be written or oral or a combination of both. The Special Committee will monitor the student’s final exam to determine if the goals for learning have been met.

3. Examples of Changes Based on Assessment Information.

- The program has only had several students complete the degree in the last decade primarily because of the specialized nature of the program and a complete lack of funding to support students in this program.
- During that time period, there have been no substantial changes based on assessment information.


- Even though the numbers of students has remained low, the program has greatly benefited several students, particularly some field extension specialists working for Cornell that needed to obtain this degree to meet new job education requirements.
- In the future, the program needs to be publicized to more private Crop Consultants and their employees within our region to see if they have candidates that they would willing to support within this program.
- Future students completing the program should be required to complete an exit interview that monitors their opinions about changes that could be made to help them succeed in their future employment.