

Students in the photography multilevel sequence move from technical instruction to industry-supported commercial work, then curate, print, and exhibit their photographs; building skills, confidence, and professional connections through a public gallery showcase.

# Student Examples

## INTRODUCTION / NEED

- Photography is essential to agricultural communications, requiring both technical expertise and professional presentation skills.
- Traditional photography courses often end with digital submission and instructor evaluation, limiting authentic professional experience.
- Authentic audiences and experiential learning strengthen engagement, skill development and career preparation.
- This course bridges the gap through an industry-supported public gallery exhibition, moving student work from classroom assignment to professional presentation.

## HOW IT WORKS

1  **LEARN**  
Technical instruction & critique

2  **CREATE**  
Commercial & Lifestyle photography assignments

3  **CURATE**  
Review, select, edit & refine

4  **PRINT & PREPARE**  
Exhibition-quality prints & matting

5  **EXHIBIT**  
Install gallery & share with the public

6  **DISCUSS**  
Students share creative process with audiences



“ Photography taught me to slow down, Notice the details, and tell a story with intention. ”  
—Student Participant

 **REAL WORK**  
Authentic commercial Assignments

 **INDUSTRY PARTNERS**  
Collaboration & mentorship from industry leaders

 **PROFESSIONAL EXHIBITION**  
Curated, printed, & presented in a public gallery

 **COMMUNITY CONNECTION**  
Student voice, public dialogue, & professional feedback

## RESULTS & IMPLICATIONS

- Greater ownership & engagement: Students devoted more time to editing, image selection and refinement knowing their work would reach a public audience.
- Stronger technical & creative skills: Students confidently defended decisions involving camera settings, lighting, composition and visual storytelling.
- Professional communication: Gallery interactions strengthened students’ ability to articulate and explain their photographic choices.
- Higher-quality portfolios: Overall work improved compared with previous semesters, demonstrating the value of authentic public presentation.

## FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE

- Plan early: Secure exhibition space and coordinate logistics well before the end of the semester.
- Build toward exhibition readiness: Use structured peer critiques and refinement throughout the course.
- Leverage industry partnerships: Provide students with authentic agricultural photography experiences and professional expectations.
- Expand the model: Incorporate additional agricultural industry partners in future semesters.

## COSTS & RESOURCES

- Low-cost, transferable model: Existing cameras, lighting equipment, Adobe Creative Cloud and campus exhibition spaces minimize expenses.
- Approximately \$35 per student: About \$900 total for 25 students.
- Primary costs: Professional printing (\$625), matting (\$75), mounting hardware (\$50) and reception refreshments (\$150).
- Flexible funding: Costs may be supported through lab fees, internal grants, industry sponsorships or student purchase.

The gallery show offers a culminating experience where student voice, industry partnership, and public dialogue come together to strengthen education and community.

