

Agricultural Economics

College of Agriculture, Food & Environment

The Department of Agricultural Economics provides programs leading to the degrees of Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy. Graduate Faculty in the department provide areas of emphasis in agricultural policy, price analysis, agricultural marketing, agribusiness, farm management, domestic and international economic development, and resource and production economics. Students must complete a core of courses in agricultural economics, economics and statistics.

Students holding degrees in agricultural economics are employed by academic institutions, local, state, and federal agencies that deal with agriculture, natural resources and economic development; private firms in the agricultural and business sectors; and agencies and governments of foreign countries. These agricultural economists conduct research, develop extension services, teach classes, and serve as managers and administrators in various types of firms and agencies.

Admission Requirements

Students entering the M.S. program are expected to have at least one course in each of the following areas: intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, calculus, and statistics. An undergraduate degree in economics is advantageous, as is a good background in mathematics. There are no minimum GPA or GRE requirements beyond those of the Graduate School, but such information, along with letters of recommendation, is used qualitatively in the admission decision.

Students entering the Ph.D. program are expected to have the following courses: at least a two-course calculus sequence, M.S. level microeconomic theory, M.S. level macroeconomic theory, and statistics theory. Some of these courses may be taken during the student's first semester. A Master's degree in a relevant discipline is generally required for entry into the Ph.D. program. In exceptional cases a student may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program with only a Bachelor's degree. There are no minimum GPA or GRE requirements beyond those of the Graduate School, but such information, along with letters of recommendation, is used qualitatively in the admission decision.

Admission Requirements

The master's program is offered in either Plan A or Plan B. The thesis option (Plan A) requires a minimum of 24 hours of graduate credit, a research thesis and an oral final exam. Plan B requires a minimum of 36 hours of graduate credit and an oral final exam. In addition to the course work requirements, students in the Ph.D. program are required to take a comprehensive examination in microeconomics administered by the Department of Economics. Students also must complete a second-year research paper requirement as part of the preliminary examination requirements. The student must defend a dissertation prospectus during the preliminary oral examination. The ability to conduct original research in agricultural economics, documented through the completion of a dissertation, is required.

Graduate students have considerable flexibility to structure their program with respect to course work and research topics consistent with individual interests. Each student has a major professor and an advisory committee to assist in course work selection and in the thesis and dissertation research.

A graduate handbook is available that provides information regarding program content, degree options and available financial assistance.

Graduate Courses

AEC 441g	Agricultural Financial Management	(3)
AEC 445g	Introduction To Resource And Environmental Economics	(3)
AEC 503	Price Theory And Applications In Agricultural Economics	(3)
AEC 510	International Trade And Agricultural Marketing	(3)
AEC 531	Agricultural Price Analysis	(3)
AEC 532	Agricultural And Food Policy	(3)
AEC 545	Resource And Environmental Economics	(3)
AEC 580	Special Problems In Agricultural Economics	(1-3)
AEC 590	Introduction To Quantitative Economics I (Same As ECO 590)	(3)
AEC 606	Advanced Agricultural Marketing	(3)
AEC 610	International Trade In Agricultural Products	(3)
AEC 620	Advanced Production Economics I	(3)
AEC 622	Advanced Agribusiness Management Strategies	(3)
AEC 624	Advanced Quantitative Methods In Agricultural Economics	(3)
AEC 626	Agriculture And Economic Development (Same As ECO 674)	(3)
AEC 640	Advanced Agricultural Policy	(3)
AEC 645	Natural Resource Economics	(3)
AEC 653	Local Economic Development (Same As PA653)	(3)
AEC 661	Programming Models In Agricultural Economics	(3)
AEC 662	Quantitative Methods In Renewable Resource Management (Same As FOR 662)	(3)
AEC 724	Applied Econometrics	(3)
AEC 745	Environmental And Natural Resource Economics	(3)
AEC 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)
AEC 749	Dissertation Research	(0)
AEC 768	Residence Credit For Master's Degree	(1-6)
AEC 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
AEC 769	Residence Credit For Doctor's Degree	(0-12)
AEC 780	Special Problems In Agricultural Economics	(1-3)
AEC 790	Residence Work In Agricultural Economics	(3-9)
AEC 796	Seminar: (Subtitle Required)	(3)