

# Animal and Dairy Sciences

---

**Department Head: Dr. John Blanton**

**Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Brian Rude**

4025 Wise Center

Box 9815

Mississippi State, MS 39762

Telephone: (662) 325-2802

E-mail: [brude@ads.msstate.edu](mailto:brude@ads.msstate.edu)

The Animal and Dairy Sciences program offers graduate study toward the Master of Science (thesis and non-thesis options) in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in Animal and Dairy Science. Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs in Animal Nutrition; Food Science; Animal Physiology; and Genetics are also available through the interdepartmental programs (refer to the specific interdepartmental programs elsewhere in the Graduate Catalog for program-specific guidelines in addition to those listed here).

## Admission Criteria

A minimum of 3.00 GPA is required for all programs (Master of Science thesis and non-thesis option and Doctor of Philosophy). Individual faculty serving as major professors may have additional requirements for students they advise. Therefore, it is advisable that a prospective student contact faculty with whom he/she is interested in working to determine if they have additional admission requirements (i.e., GRE score, etc.). An international applicant is required to have a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 575 PBT (233 CBT or 84 iBT) or an IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems) score of 7.0 or higher to be considered for admission.

## Provisional Admission

Provisional admission requirements may be indicated by the student's major professor or imposed by the Office of the Graduate School in accordance with University admission policies.

## Academic Performance

The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences adheres to the academic performance standards of the Office of the Graduate School and CALS. Students are referred to these criteria for provisional admission, contingent admission, academic performance, and dismissal policies.

## Master of Science in Agriculture with Animal Sciences Concentration - Thesis

The program of study is developed by the student and his/her major professor with approval by the student's graduate committee, in accordance with the guidelines of the Office of the Graduate School, and must include core courses as specified below. In addition to the Graduate School requirements for a master's graduate committee, the department requires that at least two committee members must be from the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.

Master's degree students must have completed or will be required to complete in addition to the graduate coursework, the following courses: Animal Breeding, Animal Nutrition, Animal Reproduction, Meats Processing, and an animal production species-specific course, or equivalent coursework, at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Graduate Seminar		1
ST 8114	Statistical Methods	4
ADS 8000	Thesis Research/ Thesis in Animal and Dairy Sciences	6
Graduate level coursework with at least 12 hours at the 8000-level		19
Total Hours		30

M.S. thesis candidates are required by the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences to submit a written proposal of the intended research area during the first year of the graduate program, in addition to the submission of an annual progress report of research, teaching, extension and service activities, and a final written and oral presentation of the thesis work.

## Master of Science in Agriculture with Animal Sciences Concentration - Non-Thesis

The program of study is developed by the student and his/her major professor with approval by the student's graduate committee, in accordance with the guidelines of the Office of the Graduate School, and must include core courses as specified below. In addition to the Graduate School requirements for a master's graduate committee, the department requires that at least two committee members must be from the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.

Master's degree students must have completed or will be required to complete in addition to the graduate coursework, the following courses: Animal Breeding, Animal Nutrition, Animal Reproduction, Meats Processing, and an animal production species-specific course, or equivalent coursework, at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Graduate Seminar	1
ST 8114                      Statistical Methods	4
Graduate-level coursework with at least 12 hours at the 8000-level	25
<hr/>	
Total Hours	30

The non-thesis student is required to complete 30 hours of coursework as approved by his/her graduate committee, write a scholarly research paper (the topic and content to be approved by the student's graduate committee), and complete an oral examination based on the coursework.

## **Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Sciences with Animal and Dairy Science Concentration**

Ph.D. candidates are required by the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences to submit a written proposal of the intended research area during the first year of the graduate program, in addition to the submission of an annual progress report of research, teaching, extension and service activities, and a final written and oral presentation of the dissertation work.

For a Ph.D. candidate, an oral and written preliminary/comprehensive examination will be administered by the student's graduate committee in accordance with the Office of the Graduate School guidelines prior to the submission or defense of dissertation research.