

Animal and Dairy Sciences

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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 (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. See Provisional Admission Requirements (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2016-17/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/#provisionaladmissiontext>) in this catalog.

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 (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2016-17/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/#provisionaladmissiontext>), contingent admission (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2016-17/graduate/admissions-information/admission-procedure/status>), academic performance (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2016-17/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements>), and dismissal (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2016-17/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) policies.

Continuous enrollment in the University in a specific graduate program is dependent upon satisfactory academic performance and progress toward the completion of the program. A candidate for a degree must average B or higher on all courses attempted for graduate credit after admission to a degree program; this includes courses on the program of study as well as non-program courses. A student cannot graduate with a grade of less than C on the program of study. Graduate students are not permitted to enroll for courses carrying pass/fail credit. A student's progress is considered satisfactory unless determined to be unsatisfactory by the department and/or the Dean of the college offering the program. Unsatisfactory performance indicators may be defined as the following.

1. The failure to maintain a B average in graduate courses attempted after admission to the program
2. A grade of U, D or F in any course
3. More than two grades below a B
4. Any case of academic dishonesty or violation of research ethics
5. Failure of the preliminary/comprehensive examination
6. Unsatisfactory evaluation of a thesis or dissertation
7. Failure of the research defense
8. Any other failure of a required component of one's program of study

Any one of these or any combination of these shall constitute the basis for the termination of a student's grade study in a degree program.

Stipends

Students who have not met the requirements for full admission to their degree program are not eligible to receive an assistantship. Students with a GPA less than 3.00 or who have been admitted on a provisional/probationary status are not eligible to receive an assistantship. Graduate assistantships provide students a salary for 20 hours of work per week which is NOT part of their own research. These 20 hours per week may be spent on research,

teaching, and/or service. The student is also expected to complete work toward their his or her own research IN ADDITION TO their assistantship duties.

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 Graduate School policy 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.

For the master's degree in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science or the PhD degree in Agriculture with a concentration in Animal and Dairy Sciences, the student must have completed or will be required to complete in addition to the graduate coursework, 9 credit hours (4000 level or above) of animal/dairy sciences courses. These 9 credit hours must include at least one course in breeding, nutrition, or reproduction and at least one course in a species-specific production system. All students are expected to demonstrate a working knowledge of the Animal and Dairy Sciences field. Opportunities to meet this expectation include: audit additional animal sciences courses (below 4000 level), serve as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Animal Science, or attend departmental journal clubs. Students not holding a degree in Animal or Dairy Sciences (or related field) will be required to do at least one of the above, as directed by the major advisor.

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 Graduate School policy 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
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

At least three academic years beyond the bachelor's degree are necessary to meet course requirements for the doctoral degree. The number of course hours will vary according to the specific requirements of the program and the student's needs. The dissertation is required of all candidates for the doctorate degree, and a minimum of 20 semesters hours of research for the dissertation must be scheduled and passed.

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 Graduate School policy prior to the submission or defense of dissertation research.