

Department of Agricultural Economics

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Agriculture and related businesses create more employment than does any other industry. The agribusiness industry accounts for nearly one-fifth of the U.S. gross national product and employs close to one-fourth of the U.S. labor force. Fully understanding how economic forces affect today's agriculture industry is critical for those seeking careers in agriculture-related businesses.

A growing field within economics is environmental economics. A key challenge to the U.S. economy in the 21st century is finding a balance between the demand for natural resources and the need to preserve our environment. Individuals who can analyze these complex problems will be needed for the new "green jobs" that require sustainable solutions to resource and environmental issues.

Two majors, Environmental Economics and Agribusiness, are offered to provide an understanding of economic forces and business management principles as well as technical knowledge of technical agriculture and environmental science. Students completing either major will be prepared to pursue additional training at the graduate level.

Students who plan to attend a community college before transferring to Mississippi State are strongly encouraged to contact the Department's major advisor regarding their proposed community college course schedule and transfer requirements.

Students in both majors are required to earn a "C" or better in all required (non-elective) agricultural economics (AEC), economics (EC), English (EN), and mathematics (MA) courses.

BS in Environmental Economics and Sustainability (EES)

The Environmental Economics and Sustainability (EES) major is designed to prepare students for the efficient and productive sustainable management of natural and environmental resources. Students receive excellent functional training and learn skills in the areas of environmental science, policy and economics. Potential career fields include, but are not limited to, environmental law; natural resource and environmental policy analysis; environmental consulting; and resource management. In addition, students desiring postgraduate training will have a solid academic foundation for pursuing graduate or professional degrees.

Degree Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Mathematics

MA 1313	College Algebra	3
MA 1713	Calculus I	3
MA 3123	Introduction to Statistical Inference	3

Science

BIO 1134	Biology I	4
BIO 1144	Biology II	4

Humanities

Select from General Education courses		6
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Fine Arts

Select from General Education courses		3
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Social/Behavioral Sciences

AEC 2713	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics	3
or EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	
EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics	3

Major Core ¹

AEC 2223	Introduction to Sustainability Economics	3
AEC 2611	Seminar I	1
AEC 2631	Environmental Economics & Sustainability Seminar	1
AEC 3113	Introduction to Quantitative Economics	3

AEC 3233	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy	3
AEC 3513	Economics of Food and Fiber Production	3
AEC 4133	Analysis of Food Markets and Prices	3
AEC 4223	Applied Quantitative Analysis in Agricultural Economics	3
AEC 4233	Environmental Economics	3
AEC 4243	Natural Resource Economics	3
AEC 4413	Public Problems of Agriculture	3
BIO 3104	Ecology	4
or WFA 3133	Applied Ecology	
BL 2413	The Legal Environment of Business	3
BL 4263	Environmental Law	3
EC 3113	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
EC 3123	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
EC 4423	Public Finance	3
PS 1113	American Government	3
PS 2703	Introduction to Public Policy	3
PS 4743	Environmental Policy	3
Free Electives		23-24
Oral Communication Requirement		
CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
Writing Requirement		
AELC 3203	Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences	3
Total Hours		124

¹ Courses are listed in alphanumeric order. Students should contact an advisor, refer to the appropriate departmental curriculum sheet or refer to the course description section of this bulletin to determine the prerequisites for each course.

² See major advisor for a list of courses approved as Restricted Electives.

BS in Agribusiness (AGB)

The Agribusiness (AGB) major provides training in business including accounting, management, marketing, finance and economics, along with training in the agricultural sciences. The AGB major offers students flexibility in preparing for a wide variety of careers in agriculture and agribusiness. The major provides all students excellent foundational training in applied economics and business management while offering students the opportunity to specialize in specific areas. Potential career fields include, but are not limited to, agricultural and environmental law; agricultural policy analysis; economic consulting; agricultural lending; agricultural production management; commodities and equities marketing; and food chain supply management, including processing, sales, and distribution. Also, students desiring post-graduate training will have a solid academic foundation for pursuing graduate degrees.

Degree Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Mathematics ¹

MA 1313	College Algebra	3
MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I (OR an equivalent or higher level calculus)	3
BQA 2113	Business Statistical Methods I	3

Science

Select from General Education courses ²		7
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Humanities

PHI 1103	Introduction to Philosophy (OR Foreign Language course)	3
Select from General Education courses		3

Fine Arts

Select from General Education courses		3
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Social/Behavioral Sciences

AEC 2713	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics	3
or EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics	
EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics	3

Major Core ¹

ACC 2013	Principles of Financial Accounting	3
ACC 2023	Principles of Managerial Accounting	3
AEC 2611	Seminar I	1
AEC 3113	Introduction to Quantitative Economics	3
AEC 3213	International Trade in Agriculture	3
AEC 3233	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy	3
AEC 3413	Introduction to Food Marketing	3
AEC 3513	Economics of Food and Fiber Production	3
AEC 4133	Analysis of Food Markets and Prices	3
AEC 4223	Applied Quantitative Analysis in Agricultural Economics	3
AEC 4413	Public Problems of Agriculture	3
BL 2413	The Legal Environment of Business	3
EC 3113	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
EC 3123	Intermediate Microeconomics	3

Oral Communication Requirement

CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
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Writing Requirement

AELC 3203	Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences	3
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Choose one of the following concentrations: 41

Management Concentration (MGT)

ACC 3203	Financial Statement Analysis	
AEC 3133	Introductory Agribusiness Management	
AEC 4113	Agribusiness Firm Management	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
FIN 3123	Financial Management	
Communication or Computer Elective (3 hours)		
Restricted Electives (15 hours) ³		
Free Electives (8 hours)		

Policy and Law Concentration (POLL)

AEC 4233	Environmental Economics	
AEC 4243	Natural Resource Economics	
EC 4423	Public Finance	
EN 4223	Principles of Legal Writing	
PHI 1113	Introduction to Logic	
PS 1113	American Government	
PS 2703	Introduction to Public Policy	
Restricted Electives (15 hours) ³		
Free Electives (5 hours)		

Production Concentration (PROD)

ADS 1113 & ADS 1121	Animal Science and Animal Science Laboratory	
AEC 3133	Introductory Agribusiness Management	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
AEC 4343	Advanced Farm Management	
FIN 3123	Financial Management	
PSS 1313	Plant Science	
Restricted Electives (15 hours) ³		

Free Electives (7 hours)

Total Hours**124**

¹ Courses are listed in alphanumeric order. Students should contact an advisor, refer to the appropriate departmental curriculum sheet or refer to the course description section of this bulletin to determine the prerequisites for each course.

² CH 1043/CH 1051 recommended

³ See major advisor for complete list of courses approved as Restricted Electives for each concentration.

Environmental Economics and Management Minor

The Department of Agricultural Economics offers a minor in Environmental Economics and Management to students outside the department. Course selection for the minor is designed to equip students with fundamental economic and management principles pertinent to environmental and resource policy issues to broaden the scope of career opportunities for students completing the minor.

A minor in Environmental Economics and Management is attained by completing at least 18 hours of environmental and resource economics courses. To satisfy the minor, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in courses taken to satisfy the minor. Students may choose among the following:

Required:

AEC 2713 or EC 2123	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics Principles of Microeconomics	3
AEC 3233	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy	3
AEC 4233	Environmental Economics	3
AEC 4243	Natural Resource Economics	3
Choose at least three of the following:		9
AEC 3113	Introduction to Quantitative Economics	
AEC 3513	Economics of Food and Fiber Production	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
AEC 4413	Public Problems of Agriculture	

Total Hours**21**

Students are responsible for satisfying all prerequisites before registering for courses. A grade of C or better must be earned in each course to be counted toward the minor. Only students outside the Department of Agricultural Economics are eligible for the minor.

Agribusiness Minor

The Department of Agricultural Economics offers a minor in Agribusiness to students outside the Department. Course selection for the minor in Agribusiness is designed to equip students with fundamental economic and management principles to broaden the scope of career opportunities for students completing the minor.

A minor in Agribusiness is attained by completing at least 18 hours of Agribusiness courses. To qualify for a minor, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average in courses taken to satisfy the requirements for the minor. Students may choose among the following:

AEC 2713 or EC 2123	Introduction to Food and Resource Economics Principles of Microeconomics	3
AEC 3133	Introductory Agribusiness Management	3
Choose at least four of the following:		12
AEC 3213	International Trade in Agriculture	
AEC 3413	Introduction to Food Marketing	
AEC 4113	Agribusiness Firm Management	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
AEC 4133	Analysis of Food Markets and Prices	
AEC 4343	Advanced Farm Management	
AEC 4413	Public Problems of Agriculture	
Other approved AEC Elective		

Total Hours**18**

Students are responsible for satisfying all prerequisites before registering for courses. A grade of C or better must be earned in each course to be counted toward the minor. Only students outside the Department of Agricultural Economics are eligible for the minor in Agribusiness.