Agricultural Economics

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The Department of Agricultural Economics offers a degree program leading to the Master of Science in Agriculture with a concentration in Agricultural Economics. This program stresses thorough mastery of advanced economic theory, methods of quantitative analysis, and the applications of these methods to the problems of agriculture. The broad program of economic research conducted by the department affords a wide selection of areas from which the student may choose a specific problem for research.

The Master of Science in Agriculture with a concentration in Agricultural Economics program is designed for the student to begin graduate coursework in a fall semester; thus, the student must submit application materials prior to July 1. However, graduate research assistantship decisions are usually made in February, and admission to the program must be obtained before an assistantship may be granted. Students are encouraged to apply by February 1. For additional program information, please visit the department's website at www.agecon.msstate.edu (http://www.agecon.msstate.edu/).

Admission Criteria

To obtain regular admission status to the M.S. program, an applicant must meet all University-wide graduate admission requirements and achieve a minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) report of 575 PBT (84 iBT) or an IELTS (International English Language Testing Systems) score of 7.0 or higher is required for all international students affected by this policy.

Provisional Admission

An applicant who has not fully met the GPA requirement stipulated by the University may be admitted on a provisional basis. The provisionally-admitted student is eligible for a change to regular status after receiving a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a C). The first 9 hours of graduate courses must be within the student's program of study. Courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student **shall** be dismissed from the graduate program. Academic departments may set higher standards for students to fulfill provisional requirements; a student admitted with provisional status should contact the graduate coordinator for the program's specific requirements. **While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.**

An Agricultural Economics student who initially obtains provisional admission status must receive a 3.00 GPA on the following courses that are to be taken in the first fall semester in order to achieve regular admission status:

AEC 6713	Quantitative Economics	3
AEC 6733	Econometric Analysis in Agriculture Economics	3
AEC 8163	Consumers, Producers, and Markets	3

Academic Performance

A student may be dismissed from the M.S. program for making more than two grades below a B on courses on the student's program of study. A student may appeal a dismissal decision by following normal appeal procedures outlined in this publication.

Prerequisite and Core Courses

A student must have previously completed the following undergraduate courses (or their equivalents) with a grade of C or higher before beginning the required graduate course sequence:

EC 3123	Intermediate Microeconomics	3
MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	3
ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	3

The student admitted to the program enrolls in a rigorous core curriculum composed of courses in microeconomic theory, quantitative techniques, and research methods. The student is required to follow a "lock-step" curriculum as specified below:

Master of Science in Agriculture with Agricultural Economics Concentration - Non-Thesis

First Year, Fall Semester		
AEC 8611	Research Seminar I	1
AEC 6713	Quantitative Economics	3
AEC 6733	Econometric Analysis in Agriculture Economics	3
AEC 8163	Consumers, Producers, and Markets	3
First Year, Spring Semester		
AEC 8621	Research Seminar II	1
AEC 8143	Agricultural Production Economics	3
AEC 8123	Analysis of Agricultural Markets.	3
AEC 8403	Game Theory	3
Other Requirements		
AEC 8233	Applied Welfare and Environmental Economics	3
AEC 8843	Survey Design and Experimental Economics	3
AEC 7000	Directed Individual Study in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	1-6
Electives, if required to complete the 32-hour program of study		5
Total Hours		**32-37**

The curriculum is designed as a lock-step sequence of 26 hours of core coursework. The non-thesis student must take from 1 to 6 Directed Individual Study hours toward a research paper. Approved electives can be used to meet the 32-hour requirement. A minimum of 15 hours at the 8000-level is required.

Master of Science in Agriculture with Agricultural Economics Concentration - Thesis

First Year, Fall Semester		
AEC 8611	Research Seminar I	1
AEC 6713	Quantitative Economics	3
AEC 6733	Econometric Analysis in Agriculture Economics	3
AEC 8163	Consumers, Producers, and Markets	3
First Year, Spring Semester		
AEC 8403	Game Theory	3
AEC 8621	Research Seminar II	1
AEC 8143	Agricultural Production Economics	3
AEC 8123	Analysis of Agricultural Markets.	3
Other Requirements		
AEC 8233	Applied Welfare and Environmental Economics	3
AEC 8843	Survey Design and Experimental Economics	3
AEC 9000	Research in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness	1-13
Total Hours		**27-39**

The curriculum is designed as a lock-step sequence of 26 hours of core coursework. The thesis student must take at least 6 hours of AEC 8000 Thesis/ Research. At least 12 hours of coursework, exclusive of the thesis credits, must be 8000-level courses.

The thesis is completed under the supervision of the student's graduate committee. Completion of the degree requires students to present and defend their research to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Economics faculty.