

Department of Agricultural Economics

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Agriculture and related businesses create more employment than 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, Agribusiness (AGB) and Environmental Economics and Sustainability (EES), are offered to provide an understanding of economic forces and business management principles as well as technical knowledge of 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.

In addition to the University and College minimum grade requirements, students must have at least a 2.00 GPA in all major core course work attempted.

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	

Fine Arts

Select from General Education courses	6
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Humanities

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

Mathematics

MA 1713	Calculus I	3
MA 3123	Introduction to Statistical Inference	3

Science

BIO 1134	Biology I	4
BIO 1144	Biology II	4

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		26-27
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 with 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	

Fine Arts

Any Gen Ed course	3
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Humanities

Any Gen Ed course	6
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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

Quantitative Reasoning

MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	3
or MA 1713	Calculus I	

Science

Any Gen Ed course	6-8
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Major Core

ACC 2013	Principles of Financial Accounting	3
ACC 2023	Principles of Managerial Accounting	3
AEC 1223	Computer Applications for Agriculturists and Life Scientists	3
or AELC 4203	Applications of Computer Tech to Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications	
or BIS 1012	Introduction to Business Information Systems	
AEC 2611	Seminar I	1
AEC 3113	Introduction to Quantitative Economics	3
AEC 3133	Introductory Agribusiness Management	3
AEC 3233	Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy	3
AEC 4133	Analysis of Food Markets and Prices	3
AEC 4213	Ag Finance I	3
AEC 4223	Applied Quantitative Analysis in Agricultural Economics	3
AEC 4413	Public Problems of Agriculture	3
AEC 4623	Global Marketing of Agricultural Product	3
or AEC 3213	International Trade in Agriculture	
BQA 2113	Business Statistical Methods I	3
or MA 2113	Introduction to Statistics	
or MA 3123	Introduction to Statistical Inference	
or ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	
or ST 3123	Introduction to Statistical Inference	
CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
EC 3113	Intermediate Macroeconomics	3
EC 3123	Intermediate Microeconomics	3

Choose one of the following concentrations:

Management Concentration (MGT) 44-49

AEC 3413	Introduction to Food Marketing	
AEC 4113	Agribusiness Firm Management	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
AEC 4343	Advanced Farm Management	
AELC 3203	Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences	
or EN 3313	Writing for the Workplace	
BL 2413	The Legal Environment of Business	
FIN 3123	Financial Management	
Restricted Electives (9 hours) ¹		
Free Electives (14-19 hours)		

Policy and Law Concentration (POLL) 44-49

AEC 4233	Environmental Economics	
AEC 4243	Natural Resource Economics	
EN 4223	Principles of Legal Writing	
PS 1113	American Government	
PS 1182	Introduction to Law I	
PS 1192	Introduction to Law II	
PS 2703	Introduction to Public Policy	
Restricted Electives (12 hours) ²		
Free Electives (13-18 hours)		

Production Concentration (PROD) 44-49

ADS 1113	Animal Science	
or PSS 1313	Plant Science	
or PO 3313	Commercial Poultry Production	

AEC 3513	Economics of Food and Fiber Production	
AEC 4123	Financial and Commodity Futures Marketing	
AEC 4343	Advanced Farm Management	
AEC 4363	Economics of Precision Agriculture	
AELC 3203 or EN 3313	Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Writing for the Workplace	
BL 2413	The Legal Environment of Business	
Restricted Electives (12 hours) ³		
Free Electives (11-16 hours)		
Total Hours		124

¹ Restricted electives for Management: Choose from any 2000-4000 level AEC courses or 3000-4000 level College of Business courses. Other courses may be used with major advisor approval.

² Restricted Electives for Policy and Law: Choose from any 2000-4000 level AEC courses, 2000-4000 level BL courses, 3000-4000 level EC courses, or 3000-4000 PS courses. Other courses may be used with major advisor approval.

³ Restricted Electives for Production: Choose from any 2000-4000 level AEC courses or 3000-4000 level College of Ag and Life Sciences courses. Other courses may be used with major advisor approval.

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
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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.