

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Graduate Programs

The Master of Science degree in Agricultural Communications is designed to build mastery of knowledge in key areas such as communication theory, history, philosophy, technology, advanced communication skills and research and data analysis. The Master of Science degree in agricultural communications reflects the distinctive body of knowledge, research base, professional delivery, and program focus of the discipline. In addition, the program introduces and requires students to apply research tools and methods.

The Master of Science program serves two primary purposes:

1. Encouraging mastery of discipline-specific knowledge with an introduction to research and data analysis, and
2. Offering discipline-specific knowledge with professional application to the work setting.

The Master of Science program offers students two options for completion of the degree: thesis option and formal report option. The thesis option requires 30 approved credit hours of coursework, which includes a six-credit hour formal thesis following the graduate college format. The formal report option requires 32 approved semester credit hours of coursework, including a two-credit hour formal report.

Students applying for the Master of Science program without a background in the appropriate option will be expected to complete coursework to bring their preparation to an acceptable level.

The Doctor of Philosophy program in Agricultural Education, Communications and Leadership is designed to prepare graduates for careers in professional education, supervision, administration, curriculum development and other areas of professional leadership in agriculture, agricultural extension, career and technology, and agricultural communications. Within the minimum 60-credit hour requirement, 15 credit hours must be completed in the core area. In addition, 15 credit hours must be completed in an area of specialization such as agricultural Extension, technical agriculture, educational administration, or other similar areas. The additional hours include 15 hours of research design and statistics and 15 hours for the dissertation.

Admission Requirements

All students accepted into the agricultural communications Master of Science degree program will be expected to meet all University and Graduate College requirements and to have earned a degree in agricultural communications or related field from an accredited university. Applicants from outside agricultural communications will be required to complete prerequisite courses equivalent to the knowledge and competencies expected in the agricultural communications undergraduate program.

An undergraduate grade-point average of 2.80 overall on a 4.00 scale or 3.00 in the last 30 hours is required. The applicant must complete the Graduate Record Examination, submit a statement of goals for pursuing the master's degree, and submit letters of reference from at least three people knowledgeable of the applicant's professional qualifications. These references should include statements relating to:

1. The applicant's success in professional settings or commitment to professions allied with the disciplines in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources,
2. The applicant's prior academic record as a reflection of ability to succeed in a Master of Science program, and
3. The applicant's potential for success in research, writing and course work at the Master of Science level.

If such references are not available, the applicant should submit references from one or more faculty members familiar with the applicant's academic career. Other references should be from individuals capable of addressing the applicant's ability to successfully complete a Master of Science program.

Review Process for Admission

The Office of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies manages all procedures and records pertinent to admission. The admission process is ongoing with admission recommendations rendered by the graduate faculty in the department. To be eligible for committee review, each applicant must submit an application for admission to the Graduate College, transcripts of all academic records, reference letters, goal statement and GRE scores.