

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Graduate Programs

The department offers graduate work leading to the Master of Science, the Master of Agriculture and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Both thesis and non-thesis options are available at the MS level. PhD students complete a teaching practicum in addition to the research thesis as a part of the degree requirements.

The graduate program stresses development of superior professional competence, suited to the demands of the modern business, academic, government and research environments. Advanced courses concentrate on economic analysis applied to problems of production, distribution and consumption of agricultural products. Courses in economic theory, econometrics, mathematical programming and statistics are an integral part of the program. Primary data analysis, natural resource use, international trade, planning, policy and development are also important topics included in graduate courses.

The faculty provide direction and individual guidance to student research in marketing, production, management of agricultural enterprises, demand and price analysis, land and water use and development, non-market valuation, rural development and planning, agricultural finance, international trade, farm appraisal, agricultural policy, econometrics and experimental economics. Students specialize through course electives and research topics. In addition, an advisory committee guides each student in preparing the program of study to ensure that the student's background, graduate coursework, and research program together lead to the desired depth and breadth of proficiency.

Admission Requirements

Prerequisites to advanced training in agricultural economics are:

1. the desire to understand and solve the complex and changing economic problems faced by agriculture and rural society, and
2. the desire and ability to learn methods of rigorous logical analysis.

In addition, differential calculus, statistics and intermediate macro- and micro-economic theory constitute a minimum background for advanced study in agricultural economics. In certain cases, a student can take part of this work after admission but the work will not count toward a graduate degree.

Acceptance by an advisor in the department is not required prior to admission to the departmental graduate program. GRE test scores are required for admission to the program.