



**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**  
T E X A S   A & M   U N I V E R S I T Y

Department of Agricultural Economics  
Texas A&M University

2020-2021

# Graduate Student Handbook

Master of Science  
Master of Agribusiness  
Doctor of Philosophy

**GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

Updated October 2020

This handbook is designed to serve as a quick reference guide for graduate students majoring in Agricultural Economics at TAMU and their advisors. Specific references are made to the Departmental Policy Manual and the [TAMU Graduate Catalog](#) for those who desire more details. This handbook is not meant to substitute for either of those publications. The policies covered in this handbook are subject to change without notice.

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Admission Guidelines

Students who meet admission requirements as defined by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be admitted to graduate studies in agricultural economics. Admission to Texas A&M and any of its sponsored programs is open to qualified individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or educationally unrelated handicaps. Prospective students should contact the Department to review the pre-requisites and admission requirements for their chosen degree program. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to make contact early in their decision process.

## Deadlines for Admission

Students desiring consideration for funding should apply by January for Fall admission or by June for Spring admission. Applications are processed as they are received.

## Orientation

To acquaint the student with the many academic and social facets of graduate student life at TAMU, the University and Department conduct orientation meetings for new graduate students prior to the first full week of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters.

## Temporary Advisor

The Associate Head for Graduate Programs will advise Master of Science and PhD students until the students select a committee chair. A Committee Chair must be identified before students file their degree plans (see section on Degree Plans for deadlines). The Director of the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program will serve as advisor and Committee Chair for MAB students.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can I get a copy of the *Graduate Catalog*?

A. The Graduate Catalog can be found on [OGAPS website](#)

Q. Is it important that I attend the orientation meetings?

A. Yes! Many of your questions as a new graduate student at TAMU will be addressed. The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at the University level will hold an orientation, and the Department of Agricultural Economics will hold its own orientation. You should attend both if you are new to Texas A&M, but if you can only attend one orientation, be sure to come to the Department orientation.

Q. Where can I get a class schedule?

A. The class schedule is available through the [Howdy Portal](#).

## **Office Assignments**

The following discussion outlines the procedures followed in allocating office space to graduate students.

### ***Departmental Policy***

#### ***Student-Requested Stations***

- a. Office assignment decisions are made by the Program Coordinator for Graduate Programs based on the following priorities: PhD graduate assistants first, master's graduate assistants second, then non- assistant PhDs third, etc. Within each category, selection depends on assistantship status and seniority in the graduate program. In all cases, students must be making satisfactory academic progress to qualify for a student-requested station.

This mixed strategy, although more complicated, gives both faculty and students more explicit roles in assigning student work stations.

#### ***Study Carrels***

To acquire a study carrel in the Evans Library, students must be writing a thesis/dissertation and the committee chair must state this in writing on Departmental letterhead. You can get information on the study carrels by calling 845-7428. There is a \$10.00 replacement fee for a lost carrel key. Renewal is done each semester in April - May and November - December or the deposit is lost. Please see [Libraries Website](#) for more information on study carrels.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q. When is office assignments made?  
A. The bulk of the office assignments are made at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Q. Who makes the office assignments?  
A. The Program Coordinator for Graduate Programs assigns student-requested office space to graduate students based on the departmental policy.
- Q. Do all students receive office space?  
A. No - because space is limited.



## **Registration**

The University regulations regarding registration are presented in the [Graduate Catalog](#) under the title “Registration”. The following material represents a summary of selected aspects of the registration procedures.

### ***First Registration***

Before registering for classes in their first semester at TAMU, students should consult the Associate Head for Graduate Programs or, if pursuing a Master of Agribusiness degree, the Director of the MAB program. They will assist students in planning and completing their first registration. A Degree Planning Guide form can be found in this handbook.

There are no formal registration forms for domestic students. Students can register via internet through the [Howdy Portal](#). Incoming international students must see their advisor and clear ISS check-in before registration.

### ***Course Load Requirements***

A graduate student is considered a full-time student if he/she is registered for 9 credit hours during the Fall and Spring semesters, and 6 credit hours during the Summer term. Students holding an assistantship and/or fellowship must be registered full-time, including summer if the assistantship includes summer employment.

Graduate students may enroll for a maximum of 17 hours during a regular semester, 6 hours for a 5-week summer term and 12 hours for a 10-week summer semester. The college dean’s office can approve/register a student for 1 additional course. A request to register for more than that should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies on the Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to University Requirements form and must include the course/section number and semester of registration

All staff members (including research associates and assistants) employed full-time are limited to a maximum of 4 credit hours per semester or summer during normal working hours. To register for more than this number of hours requires prior approval from their supervisor, the Department Head, the Dean’s Office, and the Office of Graduate Studies. A copy of the approved request must be given to the Ag Econ Graduate Office prior to registration.

### ***Continuous Registration***

Students in graduate degree programs requiring a thesis, dissertation, internship, or record of study, who have completed all course work on their degree plans other than 691 or 684 are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

Students who are subject to In Residence registration (i.e., on campus) are required to register each subsequent fall and spring semester and each 10-week summer session for at least one credit hour. University departments and colleges may have additional or higher requirements.

Unless a student plans to take examinations or defend during the summer term, registration during the summer will not be required to fulfill the continuous registration requirement. However, the University, colleges or departments may have additional or higher requirements.

Any student who has not been enrolled for one year or more must apply for readmission.

### ***Pre-registration***

The Department Graduate Office requests that all graduate students (MS, MAB, and PhD) pre-register in the Spring (usually April) for the following Summer and Fall semester and pre-register in the Fall (usually October) for the following Spring semester.

### **Residency Requirements**

A student “in residence” is expected to devote most of his/her time to graduate studies on the main campus under the direction of the major professor and the Advisory Committee.

The minimum time required to qualify for an advanced degree varies by degree. Doctoral students must complete on the College Station campus 9 credit hours during two consecutive regular semesters or one semester and one 10-week Summer session (see the [Graduate Catalog](#)). The student may be granted an exemption from this minimum time requirement if approved by the Department and the Office of Graduate Studies. Research associates, who are considered full-time staff members, are normally given an exemption from these residency requirements.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. Where can I get the next semester’s class schedule?

A. The class schedule is available on the [Howdy Portal](#).

Q. Do I have to register during the summer?

A. If you are graduating in August, you have to register during at least the first summer session. You do not have to register for the summer to satisfy University continuous registration requirements. Students employed as graduate assistants must enroll full-time in every term during which they are employed (9 credit hours in fall or spring and 6 credit hours during the summer session.)

Q. Do I have to register if I have completed my thesis?

A. If your thesis/dissertation has been cleared by the Thesis Office prior to the beginning of the semester in which you will graduate and all other degree requirements have been satisfied, you do not have to register. Please refer to the [OGAPS website](#) for deadlines

### **Grievances**

The Department has a grievance procedure available to students who feel they have a legitimate grievance. The following discussion spells out the procedures available to students in our Department.

#### ***Departmental Grievance Committee***

The Departmental Faculty and Student Grievance Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Department Head. The Committee considers grievances referred by the Department Head, the Faculty Advisory Committee, or any faculty member or student (undergraduate or graduate). This committee provides an impartial review prior to a discussion at the departmental level or higher.

#### ***Filing a Grievance***

The Department Head, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and/or the aggrieved party present cases to the Grievance Committee. Once presented with a written grievance, the Committee makes a preliminary investigation within two weeks and then decides whether to take the case. If the Committee decides to accept the case, it shall conduct its investigation and report the results within a two-month period.

The Committee reports its recommendations in writing to the Department Head, with a copy to the aggrieved and the accused. Decisions made at the Departmental level may be appealed to the appropriate unit within the Texas A&M University System. The Department Head as to the appropriate appeals route to take will inform both parties.

The Department's procedures for handling grievances are spelled out in more detail in section IV of the Policy Manual. Additional University procedures are in the [Texas A&M Student Rules](#) .

A student who wishes to learn more about these procedures should contact the Chair of the Grievance Committee or the Associate Head for Graduate Programs.

## **Travel Policies**

### **If you are traveling domestically**

- With a recognized student organization
- With a class on a fieldtrip
- On individual student travel including internships, research or to a conference)or
- With a university-affiliated group

You must sign up with [Student Activities](#) **BEFORE** you leave

### **If you are traveling internationally,**

- With a recognized student organization
- With a class on a fieldtrip
- On individual student travel including internships, research or to a conference)or
- With a university-affiliated group

You must sign up with the [Study Abroad Office](#) **BEFORE** you leave

## **Confidentiality of Student Records**

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, the following directory information may be made public unless the student desires to withhold any or all of this information:

Student's name, address (local and permanent), telephone listing, place of birth, sex, nationality, race, major, classification, dates of attendance, class schedule, degree awarded, awards or honors, class standing, previous institutions or educational agency attended by the student, parent's name and address, sports participation, weight and height of athletic team members, parking permit information, and photograph.

Currently enrolled students may submit a Hold Directory Information request via the [Howdy Portal](#). Go to the "My Record" tab and select "Withhold Directory Information" from the "My Information" menu. Please be sure to read all information and instructions carefully. This instruction remains in effect until the student advises in writing that they no longer want the information withheld or after they complete their degree and are no longer enrolled.

Faculty or staff may release directory information about students for legitimate educational purposes. Before doing so, however, Howdy should be checked to be sure that there is no block on this information.

Present and past students have the right to personally review their own educational records for information and to determine the accuracy of these records. Parents of dependent students have these same rights. Students do not have access to personal notes, confidential letters of recommendation where the student has

waived the right to access, medical records, and records concerning admission to a program in which the student has not enrolled.

TAMU administrative, supervisory, and instructional staff have access to student educational records for legitimate educational purposes related to their proper functions in educating students. With the exception of directory information, the University will only release information from or permit access to a student's educational records if the student gives his/her prior written consent for the disclosure. The written consent must include: what records are to be released, the reasons for the disclosure, to whom the disclosure is to be made, the student's signature, the date of request, and if appropriate, the date when consent is terminated.

## **ACADEMIC STATUS**

The University has several classifications for students based upon their academic achievements to date. These classifications and related subjects are summarized in this section.

### **Student Status**

#### ***Class 6 Students***

This classification is for students who want to take graduate courses but are not seeking a graduate degree. No courses taken as a G6 can be used to satisfy GPR requirements for admission to degree-seeking graduate status. Admission to G6 status does not establish eligibility for admission to degree-seeking status. Students desiring admission to a degree program must submit an application and all other documents required for admission. A maximum of 12 credit hours taken as a G6 may be transferred for use toward satisfaction of degree requirements and is subject to approval by the department.

#### ***Class 7 Students***

This classification applies to students who have completed their baccalaureate degree and have applied for and been granted admission to graduate studies. If the student has been admitted for a Master's degree, he/she will be classified as G7 until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

If the student has been admitted for a straight-through (96-hour) PhD degree, thereby by-passing the Master's degree, he/she will be classified as G7 until 30 hours of course work applicable to the doctoral degree have been completed, after which his/her classification will be changed to G8.

#### ***Class 8 Students***

The G8 classification applies to students who have completed the requirements for the Master's degree and have gained admission to study for the PhD degree. Students who have completed requirements for the baccalaureate degree, have gained admission for a straight-through (96-hour) PhD degree, and have completed a minimum of 30 hours applicable to the PhD degree will also be classified as G8 students.

If a student has completed a Master's degree at TAMU and intends to undertake PhD studies at TAMU, he/she must submit a "Letter of Intent" signed by the Head of the Department (or his/her designated representative) in which the student will be pursuing doctoral studies. The "Letter of Intent" form is available on the [Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website](#). The "Letter of Intent" must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in advance of the 12th class day of the regular semester or 4th class day of the summer session to be effective in that term.

#### ***Class 9 Students***

This classification denotes conditional admission to a graduate program. When the required documents have been received, the student's classification will be changed. Approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies is required to change a student from G9 to another graduate classification. If the graduate student does not meet his/her conditional admission requirements, the student is dismissed from the University.

## Scholastic Dishonesty

The Aggie Honor Code is a cherished tradition we all strive to uphold within this academic community. The Aggie Honor System Office (AHSO) has been established to administer the Texas A&M University Honor System. The AHSO is the central office responsible for maintaining records and for coordinating communication, prevention, training, remediation, and adjudication efforts for the Texas A&M University Honor Code. For more information, visit the [Aggie Honor Code Website](#). Any evidence of plagiarism or other scholastic dishonesty in violation of the Code will be the basis for disciplinary action, which could include a failing grade and/or loss of assistantship.

Plagiarism, as commonly defined, consists of passing off as one's own ideas, the ideas, words, writings, etc., belonging to another. Writing is considered intellectual property! In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own without citing the source in writing, even if you have the verbal permission of that person.

If you have any questions regarding scholastic dishonesty or plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the [Section 20: "Scholastic Dishonesty"](#). More information is available through the [Aggie Honor System Office](#).

## Probation

### *New Students*

Students who do not meet the minimum requirements for admission (see "Admission Guidelines") may be able to enter the graduate program on Departmental probation. The probationary program includes a minimum of 9 hours of specified course work, which must be completed at TAMU in a single semester or 10-week summer semester. Directed studies and seminar courses cannot be used. Any subsequent modification to the program must have prior approval. To continue in the graduate program, the student must achieve a minimum GPR of 3.0 for the prescribed course work, with no grade being less than a C.

### *Current Students*

GPR Requirements. Graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade point ratio (GPR) of 3.0 or greater both on courses defined on his/her degree plan and on all graduate and upper-level undergraduate courses taken at TAMU. The cumulative GPR is calculated from all eligible graduate and undergraduate courses taken subsequent to reclassification by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies to the current degree program. Students who are admitted to a graduate degree-seeking program (G7 or G8), but whose cumulative or degree plan GPR falls below the specified minimum of 3.0, will be placed on scholastic probation. Students on Scholastic Probation will be allowed the next two semesters to raise the GPR to at least 3.0. A student may be dismissed from the graduate program after two semesters of GPR below 3.0 while on probation whether the probation semesters are consecutive or not. Any student on probation is permitted to register only for courses on his/her degree plan or for required courses if no degree plan has been filed. Probation will be removed when the student's GPR is above the required 3.0. For students on assistantships or fellowships who fail to maintain the required 3.0 GPR, funds will be terminated immediately because graduate students on probationary status are not eligible for graduate assistantships, scholarships or fellowships. When the student's GPR returns to the required 3.0, they will be re-eligible for funding.

Lack of Academic Progress. Students who also fail to make reasonable progress toward their degree (lack of progress in completing coursework, delay in taking preliminary examinations, not turning in thesis/dissertation proposal within a reasonable time of passing written preliminary examination, and not making reasonable progress in completing the dissertation) will be placed on scholastic probation (see "Scholastic Requirements" in the *Graduate Catalog*). Students that are placed on Scholastic Probation due to not making reasonable progress toward their degree (as stated above) will be also be required to meet with the Chair of their Graduate Advisory Committee and prepare an action plan on how to make and maintain appropriate progress toward completing their degree. The action plan will include expected completion dates measuring academic progress. This document must be signed by both the Student and the Chair of their Graduate Advisory Committee and be turned into the Departmental Graduate Office

before being permitted to register for courses for the next semester. A student may be dismissed from the graduate program if after two semesters of probation (the semesters do not need to be consecutive) it is determined by the Chair of the student's Advisory Committee in consultation with the Department's Associate Head for Graduate Programs that reasonable progress was not made towards their degree, and completion dates listed in the action plan have not been met. You may also may be dismissed from the program if you fail to register for classes in any of the terms that you are on probation.

### **Separation, Dismissal or Termination from the University**

A department/program or graduate advisory committee may RECOMMEND separation (suspension, dismissal, or termination) from the university of a graduate student for scholastic deficiency by submitting a request in writing through the Dean of the College to the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies. The separation action could entail suspension (separation from the university for a definite period), dismissal (separation from the university for an indefinite period), or termination (permanent separation from the university).

The letter will include justification and supporting documentation of previous communications with the student discussing his/her scholastic deficiency. This could include items such as a probationary memo and/or emails. The letter needs to clearly specify the reason(s) for separation and the recommended separation action (suspension, dismissal, or termination).

Upon approval by OGAPS, a letter will be sent to the student via certified mail and email and department via email, and the student will be blocked from registration for the approved period/condition of separation by OGAPS. If the student is registered for classes in a future term, the department should cancel the student's enrollment for the future term.

### **Separation, Dismissal or Termination from the Department**

If a department/program or graduate advisory committee wishes to recommend separation from the department/program only and allow the student the opportunity to find another department/program that is willing to admit her/him, this action is considered a dismissal – separation from the university for an indefinite period of time (until and if the student finds another academic home).

The letter from the department/ program or advisory committee should provide the same information as stated above for separation from the university. OGAPS should be copied on this letter and sent a copy for the student's permanent record. The department will place a block from registration on the student's account. The department will remove the registration block ONLY if the student is accepted by another department/program. If the student is registered for classes in a future term, the department should cancel the student's enrollment for the future term.

Scholastic Warnings and Probation actions are facilitated within the department/program. Please see [Rule 12](#) for further details.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. If I wish to go on for a PhD degree after my master's, what forms do I need to complete?
- A. A student completing a graduate degree who want to continue for another graduate degree may request to do so by submitting a "[Letter of Intent](#)" if there is no break in enrollment, or if the break is less than one calendar year. You must also submit a Current Resume/CV, a Statement of Purpose and three Letters of Recommendation to Departmental Graduate Office.
- Q. What happens if I do not take the courses listed on my probationary program?
- A. Any changes to your probationary program must be approved before you can register for classes. If you do not obtain approval for changes, your registration will be canceled, and you may be dismissed from the program.

## MASTER'S DEGREE

Student entering the Master's program in agricultural economics have three options. Master of Science students have the choice of the thesis option (recommended for those students who plan to go on for further graduate studies) or the non-thesis option. The third option is the Master of Agribusiness program. Each option is described below. Students who plan to pursue a PhD degree should assure that prerequisites to the PhD program are included in their MS degree program.

### Prerequisites

Students undertaking a program of study leading to the Master's degree must have completed an accepted baccalaureate degree program, including the following or equivalent courses:

ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory
ECON 410, 311 or AGECE 430	Macroeconomic Theory
MATH 142 , 152, or 172	Calculus
STAT 303	Statistical Methods

If, in the judgment of the Associate Head for Graduate Programs or the student's graduate advisor, the student is deficient in other subject areas important to his/her graduate program, the student maybe required to satisfy additional prerequisites.

### Master of Science - Thesis Option

A minimum of 32 credit hours is required for the Agricultural Economics MS - thesis option degree.

### Requirements

The following courses or their equivalent must be included in this program of study:

#### Microeconomic Theory—Choose one of two courses:

ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory, or	
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I .....	3 Credits

#### Macroeconomic Theory—Choose one of two courses:

ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory, or	
ECON 636	Macroeconomic Theory I.....	3 Credits

**Field Requirement—Six hours of 600-level graduate Agricultural Economic courses**  
(Excluding AGECE 681, 684, 685, and 693).....6 Credits

#### Quantitative Methods:

AGECE 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness, or	
AGECE 661	Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture.....	3 Credits
AGECE 622	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting, or	
AGECE 641	Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics or	
AGECE 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.....	3 Credits

#### Research:

AGECE 607	Research Methodology .....	3 Credits
AGECE 691	Research.....	8 Credits

**Electives** .....3 Credits

**Total credits** .....**32 Credits**



Any course taken as AGEC 685 Directed Studies will require the completion of a [commitment form](#). Each AGEC 685 course taken must have a completed commitment form on file in the Graduate Office, which will include an outline of objectives, and a syllabus with grading criteria.

A thesis based upon original research work is required under this option. A thesis proposal must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies at least 15 working days prior to submission of the “Request and Announcement of the Final Examination” form. A copy of the “Thesis Manual” should be consulted to make sure required procedures are followed. This manual is available from the Texas A&M Bookstore or can be downloaded from the [Thesis Office homepage](#) at

Normally 8 hours of AGEC 691 are taken to satisfy the research credits associated with the thesis. It is possible to register for more than 8 hours of AGEC 691 as long as the student has met all other course requirements for the degree, but no more than 8 hours may appear on the degree plan. It is also possible to take fewer than 8 hours of AGEC 691 as long as (1) the student’s Advisory Committee approves and (2) the student completes a degree plan of 32 or more credit hours.

Master of Science-thesis students may choose to replace AGEC 691 Research hours with AGEC 684 Internship hours on their degree plans not to exceed a total of 8 credit hours. For information about the Internship program, consult the [Procedural Manual for the Master of Science Internship Program](#).

The final examination, which is taken after students have completed all other requirements for the degree, covers both course work and thesis. Thesis-option candidates may petition to be exempted from their final examination provided their GPR is 3.5 or better. Approval of their Advisory Committee, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, and the Office of Graduate Studies is required.

Permission to administer the final exam must be sought at least two weeks prior to the desired exam date. The committee chair should make this request to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies through the Associate Head for Graduate Programs. The official “Request and Announcement of the Final Examination” [form](#) is found on the [OGAPS website](#). Copies of the abstract (not to exceed 350 words) must be distributed to the faculty, along with an announcement of the scheduled time and location of the exam.

### ***Planning Schedules***

The three figures that follow have been prepared to assist the student in planning the MS thesis option program. Figure 1 summarizes the degree requirements. Figure 2 provides information to help sequence the courses. Figure 3 provides a typical schedule for a MS thesis student.

## Figure 1. Master of Science – Thesis Option: Degree Planning Guide

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>PREREQUISITES OR EQUIVALENT</b>				
ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory	3	F,S,SSI	
ECON 410 <sup>a</sup>	Macroeconomic Theory	3	F,S,SSII	
MATH 142 <sup>b</sup>	Business Mathematics II (Multivariate Calculus)	3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
STAT 303	Statistical Methods	3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 607 <sup>c</sup>	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	3	Fall	
ECON 611 <sup>d</sup>	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	3	Spring	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
AGEC 621 <sup>e</sup>	Econometrics for Agribusiness	3	Fall	
AGEC 622 <sup>f</sup>	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting	3	Spring	
<b>Field Requirements (6 credits of AGEC Field Courses):</b>				
<b>Research Requirements:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology	3	Spring	
AGEC 691 <sup>g</sup>	Research	8	All	
<b>Elective Courses (3 credits required):</b>				

### Student's Advisory Committee:

Chair	Member	Outside Member

**Minimum Credit Required: 32. Departures from courses listed above require written justification and approval by the student's proposed Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.**

<sup>a</sup> Or ECON 311 or AGEC 430.

<sup>b</sup> Or Math 152 or 172.

<sup>c</sup> Or ECON 629 Microeconomic Theory I (Fall).

<sup>d</sup> Or ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I (Spring).

<sup>e</sup> Or AGEC 661 Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture (Spring).

<sup>f</sup> Or AGEC 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics (Fall) or AGEC 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics (Fall).

<sup>g</sup> Research credits may be replaced by course credits

**Figure 2. Master of Science – Thesis Option: Scheduling of Curriculum**

Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>ECON 607 (3) Microeconomic Theory            AGECE 621 (3) Econometrics for Agribusiness</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGECE 608 (3) Economics of Conflict and Development            AGECE 613 (3) INTC Agricultural Development Policy            AGECE 614 (3) Global Food and Agribusiness Policy            AGECE 639 (3) Comparative Global Standards in Food Systems            AGECE 652 (3) Internat’l Agribusiness Trade Analysis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGECE 622 (3) Agribusiness Analysis &amp; Forecasting            AGECE 607 (3) Research Methodology            ECON 611 (3) Macroeconomic Theory</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGECE 601 (3) Commodity Fut. &amp; Opt. Markets            AGECE 603 (3) Land Economics            AGECE 604 (3) Natural Resource Economics            AGECE 605 (3) Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization            AGECE 606 (3) Water Resource Economics            AGECE 620 (3) Food Security Climate Conflict            AGECE 634 (3) Rural Financial Markets &amp; Planning            AGECE 638 (3) Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Optional</b></p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p>
<b>Final Semester</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGECE 608 (3) Econ of Conflict and Development            AGECE 613 (3) International Ag Development Policy            AGECE 614 (3) Global Food and Agribusiness Policy            AGECE 639 (3) Comparative Global Standards in Food Systems            AGECE 652 (3) Internat’l Agribusiness Trade Analysis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Optional</b></p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGECE 601 (3) Commodity Fut. &amp; Opt. Markets            AGECE 603 (3) Land Economics            AGECE 604 (3) Natural Resource Economics            AGECE 605 (3) Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization            AGECE 606 (3) Water Resource Economics            AGECE 620 (3) Food Security Climate Conflict            AGECE 625 (3) Environment of Agribusiness            AGECE 634 (3) Rural Financial Markets &amp; Planning            AGECE 638 (3) Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Optional</b></p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p>	

**Figure 3. Master of Science – Thesis Option: Typical Schedule**

Fall	Spring	Summer I	Summer II
-----First Year-----			
ECON 607 (3) AGEC 621 (3) Field Elective or Elective (3)	AGEC 622 (3) AGEC 607 (3) ECON 611 (3)	Elective (3)	AGEC 691 (3)
-----Final Year-----			
Field Elective or Elective (3) AGEC 691 (6)			

## Master of Science - Non-Thesis Option

A minimum of 36 hours of graduate credit is required for the Agricultural Economics MS - non-thesis option degree. The MS non-thesis option is designed for those students who want the MS degree but who lack an interest in writing the thesis. To compensate for not writing a thesis, students are required to take a greater number of courses than MS students choosing the thesis option. Students may also complete a Professional Study paper (three credit hours).

### Requirements

The following courses (or their equivalents) are required under the MS non-thesis option:

#### Microeconomic Theory—Choose one of three courses:

AGEC 619	Managerial Economics for Agribusiness,	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory, <b>or</b>	
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I.....	3 Credits

#### Macroeconomic Theory—Choose one of two courses:

ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory, <b>or</b>	
ECON 636	Macroeconomic Theory I.....	3 Credits

#### Field Requirements—Nine hours of 600-level Agricultural Economics courses

(Excluding AGECE 681, 684, 685, and 693) ..... 9 Credits

#### Quantitative Methods:

AGEC 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness, <b>or</b>	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture.....	3 Credits
AGEC 622	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting, <b>or</b>	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, <b>and</b>	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.....	3 Credits

#### Research:

AGEC 693	Professional Study Paper <b>or</b>	
	An elective course approved by the Student's Advisor.....	3 Credits

**Electives** .....12 Credits

**Total credits.....36 Credits**

Any course taken as AGECE 685 Directed Studies will require the completion of a [commitment form](#). Each AGECE 685 course taken must have a completed commitment form on file in the Graduate Office, which will include an outline of objectives, and a syllabus with grading criteria.

AGECE 684 Professional Internship is an elective option for Master of Science-Non-Thesis students. For information about the Internship program, consult the [Procedural Manual for the Master of Science Internship Program](#)

Prior to registering for AGECE 693 Professional Study, the student must complete the "[Professional Study Proposal Form](#)". The Professional Study paper should focus on an issue of special interest and relevance to the student's specialty area and must show evidence of an ability to complete an applied research project, including defining the project's objectives, analyzing the problem, and writing the results in a paper using an acceptable manuscript format. The advisor or his/her designee will supervise the development of this paper. Students should refer to the [AGECE 693 Professional Study Paper](#) for instruction concerning the preparation of the professional study paper. The completed paper will be presented to the student's advisor, who assigns a letter grade. Bound copies of the paper are to be provided to Advisory Committee members upon request. In addition, a pdf version of the paper is to be submitted to the Grad Office.

The final oral examination, taken after all other requirements are completed, covers course work and the Professional Study paper. A [“Request and Announcement of the Final Examination”](#) form must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the desired exam date.

### ***Planning Schedules***

The three figures that follow have been prepared to assist the student in planning the MS non-thesis program. Figure 4 summarizes the degree requirements. Figure 5 provides information to help sequence the courses. Figure 6 provides a typical schedule for a MS non-thesis student.

## Figure 4. Master of Science – Non-Thesis Option: Degree Planning Guide

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>PREREQUISITES OR EQUIVALENTS</b>				
ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSI	
ECON 410 <sup>a</sup>	Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSII	
MATH 142 <sup>b</sup>	Business Mathematics II (Multivariate Calculus)	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
STAT 303	Statistical Methods	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
AGEC 619 <sup>c</sup>	Managerial Economics for Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611 <sup>d</sup>	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
AGEC 621 <sup>e</sup>	Econometrics for Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 622 <sup>f</sup>	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Field Requirements (9 Credits of AGEC Field Courses):</b>				
<b>Research Requirements:</b>				
AGEC 693 <sup>g</sup>	Professional Study	Credit 3	All	
<b>Elective Courses (12 Credits Required):</b>				

### Student's Advisory Committee:

Chair	Member	Outside Member

**Minimum Credits Required: 36. Departures from courses listed above require written justification and approval by the student's proposed Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.**

<sup>a</sup> Or ECON 311 or AGEC 430.

<sup>b</sup> Or MATH 152 or 172.

<sup>c</sup> Or ECON 607 Foundations of Microeconomic Theory (Fall) or ECON 629 Microeconomic Theory I (Fall).

<sup>d</sup> Or ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I (Spring).

<sup>e</sup> Or AGEC 661 Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture (Spring).

<sup>f</sup> Or AGEC 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics (Fall) or AGEC 643 applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics (Fall)

<sup>g</sup> Or an elective course approved by the Student's Advisor (If this option is chosen, the final exam will be over MS course work.)

**Figure 5. Master of Science – Non-Thesis Option: Scheduling of Curriculum**

<b>Fall (First Year)</b>	<b>Spring (First Year)</b>	<b>Summer (First Year)</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGEC 619 (3) Managerial Economics in Agribusiness AGEC 621 (3) Econometrics for Agribusiness</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGEC 608 (3) Economics of Conflict and Development AGEC 613 (3) INTC Agricultural Development Policy AGEC 614 (3) Global Food and Agribusiness Policy AGEC 639 (3) Comparative Global Standards in Food Science AGEC 652 (3) Internat'l Agribusiness Trade Analysis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGEC 622 (3) Agribusiness Analysis &amp; Forecasting ECON 611 (3) Macroeconomic Theory</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGEC 601 (3) Commodity Fut. &amp; Opt. Markets AGEC 603 (3) Land Economics AGEC 604 (3) Natural Resource Economics AGEC 605 (3) Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization AGEC 606 (3) Water Resource Economics AGEC 620 (3) Food Security Climate Conflict AGEC 625 (3) Environment of Agribusiness AGEC 634 (3) Rural Financial Markets &amp; Planning AGEC 638 (3) Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGEC 693 (3) Professional Study</p>
<b>Fall (Second Year)</b>	<b>Spring (Second Year)</b>	<b>Summer (Second Year)</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGEC 608 (3) Econ of Conflict and Development AGEC 613 (3) INTL Ag Development Policy AGEC 614 (3) Global Food and Agribusiness Policy AGEC 639 (3) Comparative Global Standards in Food Systems AGEC 652 (3) Internat'l Agribusiness Trade Analysis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>AGEC 601 (3) Commodity Fut. &amp; Opt. Markets AGEC 603 (3) Land Economics AGEC 604 (3) Natural Resource Economics AGEC 605 (3) Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization AGEC 606 (3) Water Resource Economics AGEC 620 (3) Food Security Climate Conflict AGEC 625 (3) Environment of Agribusiness AGEC 634 (3) Rural Financial Markets &amp; Planning AGEC 638 (3) Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science</p>	



**Figure 6. Master of Science – Non-Thesis Option: Typical Schedule**

Fall	Spring	Summer I	Summer II
-----First Year-----			
AGECE 619 (3) AGECE 621 (3) Field Elective or Elective (3)	AGECE 622 (3) ECON 611 (3) Field Electives or Electives (3)	AGECE 693 (3) Elective (3)	Elective (3)
-----Second Year-----			
Field Electives or Electives (9)			

## Master of Agribusiness

A minimum of 39 hours of graduate credit is required for the Master of Agribusiness (MAB) degree. The MAB option is non-thesis, interdisciplinary, and jointly administered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Mays Business School. This professional curriculum is designed to provide a broad preparation for economic, financial, and marketing analysis of agribusiness, food, and fiber industry decisions. Students may select 9 credit hours of electives within the 39 credit hour requirement in consultation with the Program Director, which may include an AGECE 684 Internship. A Procedural Manual for the [Master of Agribusiness Internship Program](#). In addition, students will be required to take capstone courses during their last fall semester (AGECE 629 and 630). Successful completion of these capstone courses allows waiving of the final oral examination.

### Requirements

The following courses (or their equivalents) are required under the Master of Agribusiness option:

#### Foundation Courses:

ACCT 640	Accounting Concepts and Procedures .....	3 Credits
AGECE 619	Managerial Economics in Agribusiness.....	3 Credits
FINC 635	Financial Management.....	3 Credits
MGMT 655	Survey of Management.....	3 Credits
MKTG 621	Survey of Marketing .....	3 Credits

*If the student has previously taken one or more course(s) equivalent to the foundation courses, the MAB Director will allow substitution of one or more elective course(s) from the Mays Business School, or the MAB Director may allow substitution of related courses if, in his/her judgment and in consultation with the student, these courses would better suit the student's objectives.*

#### Quantitative Methods:

AGECE 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness .....	3 Credits
AGECE 622	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting.....	3 Credits

#### Field Requirements:

AGECE 625	Environment of Agribusiness .....	3 Credits
AGECE 629	Agribusiness Strategic Management .....	3 Credits
AGECE 630	Financial Analysis for Agribusiness Firms.....	3 Credits

**Electives:** .....9 Credits

**Total credits.....39 Credits**

The capstone courses (AGEC 629, 630) are taught during the Fall semester and taken during the second year of the student's program. Prerequisites for these courses are ACCT 640, AGEC 621, AGEC 625, AGEC 619, and FINC 635. Students must have taken or be concurrently enrolled in the foundation courses. Course sequence is based on entry in the Fall semester.

One available elective is the AGEC 684 Internship, which should be taken during the summer term in the middle of the program rather than at the end. [A Procedural Manual for the Master of Agribusiness Internship Program](#)

Any course taken as AGEC 685 Directed Studies will require the completion of a [commitment form](#). Each AGEC 685 course taken must have a completed commitment form on file in the Graduate Office, which will include an outline of objectives, and a syllabus with grading criteria.

The MAB Director may substitute related courses for required courses if, in his/her judgment and in consultation with the student, these courses would better suit the student's objectives.

### ***Planning Schedules***

The three figures that follow have been prepared to assist the student in planning the Master of Agribusiness program. Figure 7 summarizes the degree requirements. Figure 8 provides a typical schedule for a Master of Agribusiness student. Figure 9 lists suggested elective courses to satisfy Master of Agribusiness requirements.

## Figure 7. Master of Agribusiness: Degree Planning Guide

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered <sup>a</sup>	Year Taken
<b>PREREQUISITES OR EQUIVALENTS</b>				
ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSI	
ECON 410 <sup>b</sup>	Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSII	
MATH 142 <sup>c</sup>	Business Mathematics II (Multivariate Calculus)	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
STAT 303	Statistical Methods	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>				
<b>Foundation Courses<sup>d</sup>:</b>				
ACCT 640	Accounting Concepts and Procedures	Credit 3	F, S	
AGEC 619	Managerial Economics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	F	
FINC 635	Financial Management	Credit 3	F, S	
MGMT 655	Survey of Management	Credit 3	F, S	
MKTG 621	Survey of Marketing	Credit 3	F, S	
<b>Quantitative Courses:</b>				
AGEC 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 622	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Field Course Requirements:</b>				
AGEC 625	Environment of Agribusiness	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 629	Agribusiness Strategic Management	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 630	Financial Analysis for Agribusiness Firms	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Elective Courses (9 Credits required):</b>				
		Credit 3		
		Credit 3		
		Credit 3		

### Student's Advisory Committee:

Chair
Director, Master of Agribusiness Program

**Minimum Credits Required: 39. Departures from listed courses require approval of the MAB Program Director at the time the degree plan is filed.**

<sup>a</sup> Some Mays Business School classes may be offered in the summer term.

<sup>b</sup> or ECON 311 or AGECE 430

<sup>c</sup> or MATH 152, or 172.

<sup>d</sup>Students may elect to take a more advanced course in ACCT, FINC, MKTG, or MGMT with the approval of the MAB Program Director.

**Figure 8. Master of Agribusiness: Typical Schedule**

Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGEC 619 (3) Managerial Economics in Agribusiness            AGEC 621 (3) Econometrics for Agribusiness            ACCT 640 (3) Accounting Concepts and Procedures            MGMT 655 (3) Survey of Management</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Required</b></p> <p>AGEC 622 (3) Agribusiness Analysis &amp; Forecasting            AGEC 625 (3) Environment of Agribusiness            MKTG 621 (3) Survey of Marketing            FINC 635 (3) Financial Management</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Field Electives</b></p> <p>6 hours of electives (may include            AGEC 684 Internship)</p>
Fall (Second Year)		
<p>AGEC 629 (3) Strategic Agribusiness Management            AGEC 630 (3) Financial Analysis for Agribusiness Firms            Elective (3)</p>		

**Figure 9. Master of Agribusiness: Suggested Elective Courses**

<b>Department of Agricultural Economics (AGEC)</b>	<b>Department of Information and Operations Management</b>
447 Food and Agricultural Price Analysis	SCMT 610 Business Analytics
601 Commodity Futures & Options Markets	SCMT 614 Operations Management
603 Land Economics	SCMT 645 Business Process Design
604 Natural Resource Economics	SCMT 636 Decision Support Systems
605 Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization	SCMT 667 Logistics and Distribution Management
606 Water Resource Economics	ISTM 610 Business Data Communications
608 Econ of Conflict and Development	ISTM 630 MIS Project Management and Implementation
613 International Ag Development Policy	ISTM 643 Corporate Information Planning
614 Global Food & Agribusiness Policy	ISTM 650 Business Data Mining
620 Food Security Climate Conflict	ISTM 654 E-Commerce Technologies
634 Rural Financial Markets & Financial Planning	ISTM 656 Global Information Systems
652 International Agribusiness Trade Analysis	
659 Ecological Economics (offered even years only)	<b>Department of Management (MGMT)</b>
684 Professional Internship	637 Foundations of Entrepreneurship
638 Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science (online course)	638 Strategic Entrepreneurship
639 Comparative Global Standards in Food Systems (online course)	639 Negotiations in Competitive Environments
	640 Managing for Creativity and Innovation
	643 Foundations of Managerial Law
<b>Department of Finance (FINC)</b>	647 Law for Small and Family Owned Businesses
629 Financial Management I	658 Managing Projects
632 Investment Management	663 Transfer Pricing
642 Analysis of Money and Capital Markets	667 Multinational Enterprises
645 International Finance	678 International Management
647 Financial Statement Analysis	679 International Business Policy
649 Financial Modeling	680 Business and Corporate Strategy
661 Trading Risk Management	
665 Derivative Securities	<b>Department of Accounting (ACCT)</b>
666 Wall Street, Investment Banking, & Financial Markets	641 Accounting Concepts and Procedures II
667 Commodity Trade Strategy	647 Financial Statement Analysis
672 Real Property Finance	
	<b>Department of Animal Science (or Food Science)</b>
<b>Department of Marketing (MKTG)</b>	FSTC/ANSC 657 Introduction to HACCP
650 Analyzing Consumer Behavior	FSTC/ANSC 670 Food Quality Management
656 Branding and Marketing Communications	
665 Research for Marketing Decisions	<b>Department of Ag. Leadership, Education, and Communication</b>
671 Product Innovation	AGED 625 Program Evaluation
673 Services Marketing	ALEC 625 Team Projects
675 Marketing Strategy	
677 Multinational Marketing Management	

## ***PhD DEGREE***

### **Degree Requirements**

PhD students are expected to gain an acceptable level of competency in economic theory, quantitative methods, and field areas in agricultural economics. The courses necessary to meet PhD requirements are listed below. Any alterations in course requirements must be accompanied by a written explanation from the student (and endorsed by the student's advisory committee chair) to the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan or any petition to alter the plan is submitted. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs must approve alterations in course requirements.

### ***Credit Hour Requirements***

PhD degree plans must reflect a minimum of 64 hours beyond the Master's degree and prerequisites, including course work and research credits (AGEC 691). Course work counted toward a Master's degree cannot be counted in the total hours required for a PhD student's degree plan but can satisfy the specific course requirements listed below.

### ***Prerequisites***

A student undertaking a 64-hour program of study leading to the PhD degree must have completed the following or equivalent courses:

ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory
AGEC 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness
ECMT 660	Mathematical Economics I
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (not required if student has completed a MS thesis)

A solid foundation is critical to success in the AGEC PhD program. Hence, in addition to the prerequisite courses, all beginning students are encouraged to take a Departmental on-line math camp that will be offered as a non-credit course during the summer preceding the start of the PhD program. In addition to the Departmental math camp, students are encouraged to take or audit the Math Prep and Stat Prep courses offered by the Department of Economics early August. After the math and stat prep courses, students starting the PhD program will take a placement exam that covers required mathematical concepts. If, in the judgment of the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, the student is deficient in any subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the student may be required to satisfy additional prerequisites before starting the required PhD courses listed below. This will not affect the student's status in the program or funding.

### ***Course Requirements***

The following courses (or their equivalents) are required under the PhD program:

#### ***Economic Theory and Applications***

Competency in economic theory and application is expected. Two courses (6 credit hours) are taken to meet the minimum microeconomic theory requirement.

#### **Microeconomic Theory:**

ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I.....	3 Credits
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II.....	3 Credits

*Total economic theory requirements..... 6 Credits*

One course (3 credit hours) covering advanced material which comprise a common body of critical knowledge is required for all PhD students.

**Core Requirements**

AGEC 636 Agribusiness Markets and Applied Welfare Analysis .....3Credits

**Total Core Requirements .....3 Credits**

**Total Economic Theory and Applications .....9 Credits**

**Quantitative Methods**

Three courses (11 credit hours) in quantitative methods are required for the PhD degree in agricultural economics. These courses are:

ECMT 675\* Econometrics I .....3 Credits

AGEC 661 Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture and Resources I .....3 Credits

AGEC 662 Applied Econometric Methods in Agriculture and Resources II.....3 Credits

Two out of the following three courses:

AGEC 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics .....3 Credits

AGEC 642 Dynamic Optimization..... 3 Credits

AGEC 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.....3 Credits

\* STAT 630 or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

**Total quantitative methods requirements .....15 Credits**

**Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective**

Students must choose two of the following courses to augment their studies in economic theory or quantitative methods:

AGEC 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics

AGEC 642 Dynamic Optimization

AGEC 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics

ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I;

ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II

ECMT 677 Applied Microeconometrics

ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in

Econometrics

**Total Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Electives .....6 Credits**

Other graduate courses may be required or recommended depending on the student's area of emphasis. If, in the judgment of the student's Advisory Committee chair, the student is deficient in other subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the student may be required to satisfy additional requirements.



**Field Area**

Students, in consultation with their Advisory Committee are required to take 12 credit hours of field courses. First, the student must choose a field area that includes a minimum of 6 credit hours. The Department offers two field areas: (A) Markets and Information Economics, and (B) Resources and Environmental Economics. Each field area consists of two required courses: (1) a Fundamentals course, and (2) a Frontiers course. Students will be required to take a field prelim over these two courses. In addition to the two required field courses, students must take two field elective courses, either inside or outside the department, which will (1) provide greater depth in their primary field area or (2) constitute a second field as defined by their Advisory Committees.

**Field Requirement: Choose one field area (six credits) and two field electives (six credits):**

**Field Areas:**

*Markets and Information Economics*

AGEC 672	Fundamentals in Agricultural Markets and Information Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 676	Frontiers in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.....	3 Credits

*Resource and Environmental Economics*

AGEC 673	Fundamentals in Resource and Environmental Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 677	Frontiers in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.....	3 Credits
<i>Subtotal in Field Area.....</i>		<b>6 Credits</b>

**Field Courses**

AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 672	Fundamentals in Agricultural Markets and Information Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 673	Fundamentals in Resource and Environmental Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 676	Markets and Information Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 677	Resource and Environmental Economics.....	3 Credits
AGEC 695	Frontiers in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.....	3 Credits
<i>Subtotal in Field Elective Area.....</i>		<b>6 Credits</b>

**Total Field Requirements: ..... 12 Credits**

In satisfying the field **elective** requirements, students may substitute courses for the seven courses listed above. However, students must obtain the approval of the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC) to take masters-level courses offered in Agricultural Economics, Economics, and the Mays Business School; or departmental courses that are prerequisite to field courses or part of the core PhD curriculum. Students may not include any 681, 684, 685, or 691 credits for field courses.

**Total Minimum Course Requirements ..... 42 Credits**

**Research**

AGEC 691	Research.....	22 Credits
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All PhD students must attain a level of understanding of philosophy of science comparable to AGEC 607 (Research Methodology) and a working knowledge of the use of computers in research and teaching.

**Additional hours of coursework can be used to replace research hours.**

**Total Credits ..... 64 Credits**

## Variable Credit Courses

Variable credit courses (AGEC 685 and 691) will require the completion of a commitment form. Each AGEC 685 Directed Studies course taken must have a completed [commitment form](#) on file in the Graduate Office. For AGEC 691, the [commitment form](#) is required only for research hours requested before completion of prelims.

## Dissertation and Proposal

A dissertation based upon original research is required for the PhD degree. A dissertation proposal must be filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The proposal coversheet can be found on the [Office of Graduate and Professional Studies forms website](#). It should be completed as early in the student's program as the planned research project can be outlined in reasonable detail. The proposal must be completed and submitted to the student's Advisory Committee prior to the Oral Preliminary Examination, which is a defense of the dissertation proposal. To be sure required procedures are followed, consult the [Thesis Manual](#) for detailed instruction on the formatting of the dissertation.

## Straight-Through PhD

Students wanting to go straight through from a BS to a PhD degree are required to complete a 96-hour program typically including course work and research (AGEC 691). The required coursework is the same as the PhD curriculum. If a student has been admitted for a straight-through PhD degree, thereby by-passing the Master's degree, he/she will be classified as G7 until 30 hours of course work applicable to the doctoral degree have been completed, after which his/her classification will be changed to G8 (see section on Academic Status in this Handbook).

### *Prerequisites*

Students undertaking a program of study leading to the straight-through PhD degree must have completed an accepted BS degree program, including the following courses or their equivalent:

ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory
ECON 410, 311 or AGEC 430	Macroeconomic Theory
MATH 142, 152, or 172	Calculus
STAT 303	Statistical Methods

If, in the judgment of the student's Advisory Committee, the student is deficient in other subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the additional prerequisites may be required.

### *Recommended Courses Depending on Student's Background*

It is recommended that students who have not had graduate coursework in microeconomic theory (or equivalent) take [ECON 607](#) (Foundations of Microeconomic Theory). Students who have not had graduate coursework in macroeconomic theory (or equivalent) should take [ECON 611](#) (Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory). Students who have not had courses that cover matrix algebra and multivariate calculus should take [ECMT 660](#) (Mathematical Economics I). Students who have not had coursework in statistical data analysis, multiple regression, hypothesis testing, and simultaneous equation models should take [AGEC 621](#) (Econometrics in Agribusiness). Students who have not had coursework in linear programming, time series, forecasting and simulation should take [AGEC 622](#) (Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting). Students who have not had coursework in basic probability theory including distributions of random variables and expectations should take STAT 630 (Overview of mathematical Statistics).

A solid foundation is critical to success in the AGECEC PhD program. Hence, in addition to the prerequisite courses, all beginning students are encouraged to take a Departmental on-line math camp that will be offered as a non-credit course during the summer preceding the start of the PhD classes. In addition to the Departmental math camp, students are encouraged to take or audit the Math Prep and Stat Prep courses offered by the Department of Economics early August. After the math and stat prep courses, students starting the PhD program will take a placement exam that covers required mathematical concepts. If, in the judgment of the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, the student is deficient in any subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the student maybe required to satisfy additional prerequisites before starting the required PhD courses listed below. This will not affect the student's status in the program or funding.

### **Planning Schedules**

The six figures that follow have been prepared to assist the student in planning the PhD program. Figures 10 and 13 summarize the degree requirements for the PhD and the straight-through PhD degrees, respectively. Figures 11 and 14 provide information to help sequence the courses for the PhD and straight-through PhD degrees, respectively. Figures 12 and 15 provide a typical schedule for PhD and straight-through PhD students, respectively.

## Figure 10. PhD: Degree Planning Guide

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>Prerequisites or Equivalents:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (or MS thesis)	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 621	Econometrics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall, SSII	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>a</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Required Courses:</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>b</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 641	Operations Research	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization OR		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agriculture		Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Electives <sup>c</sup>:</b>				
		Credit 3		
		Credit 3		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 691 <sup>d</sup>	Research	Credit 22		
<b>Field Requirement (12 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 672 and 676 OR	Fundamentals and Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics	Credit 6	Fall/Spring	
AGEC 673 and 677	Fundamentals and Frontiers in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics	Credit 6	Fall/Spring	
	Elective field course	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
	Elective field course	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	

### Student's Advisory Committee:

Chair	Member	Member	Outside Member

Minimum credit hours required, not counting prerequisites are 64. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed course require written justification and approval by the proposed student's Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> ECON 460 is a good substitute in semesters ECMT 660 is not taught.

<sup>b</sup> or STAT 630 or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>c</sup> Choose from ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I; ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II; ECMT 677 Applied Econometrics; ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics; AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics; AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization or AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.

<sup>d</sup> Research credits may be replaced by course credits.

**Figure 11. PhD Scheduling of Curriculum**

		Summer (Month of August)
		<b>Quantitative Methods</b> Math Prep Stat Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<p><b>Required</b> ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I AGEC 661 (3) Applied Econometrics I</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics I STAT 630 (3) Overview of Math Stat STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I</p>	<p><b>Required</b> ECON 630 (4) Microeconomic Theory II AGEC 662 (3) Applied Econometrics II</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II</p> <p><b>Elective</b></p>	<p><b>Required</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Electives</i></p> <p><i>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup></i> (Offered May and August)</p>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<p><b>Required</b> AGEC 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. &amp; Welfare Econ.</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 643 (3) Applied Simulation</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> AGEC 671 (3) Fundamentals: Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets AGEC 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources</p>	<p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research Theory AGEC 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> AGEC 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets AGEC 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources AGEC 695 (3) Frontiers: Agribusiness</p>	<p><b>Optional Field Elective</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup></i> (Offered in January and May)</p>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<p><b>Field Electives</b> AGEC 671 (3) Fundamentals: Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets AGEC 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources</p> <p><b>Optional</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Oral Prelim</i></p>	<p><b>Field Electives</b> AGEC 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets AGEC 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources AGEC 695 (3) Frontiers: Agribusiness</p> <p><b>Optional</b> AGEC 691 Research</p>	<p><b>Optional Field Elective</b> AGEC 691 Research</p>

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGEC 661 and AGEC 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGEC 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student's dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.

**Figure 12. PhD: Typical Schedule**

		Summer (prior to first Fall)
		MATH Prep STAT Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
ECON 629 (3) ECMT 675 (3) AGEC 661 (3)	ECON 630 (3) AGEC 661(3) AGEC 641 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
AGEC 636 (3) AGEC 643 (3) Field Course (3)	AGEC 642 (3) Field Elective, Econ Theory or Quant Elective (6)	AGEC 691(6) <i>Written Field Prelim</i> <i>(Offered January and May)</i>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
Field Elective, Econ Theory or Quant Elective (6) AGEC 691 <i>Oral Prelim</i>	AGEC 691	AGEC 691

**Figure 13. Straight-Through PhD: Degree Planning Guide**  
(Revised 10/28/2020)F

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>PREREQUISITES OR EQUIVALENTS</b>				
ECON 323	Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSI	
ECON 410 <sup>a</sup>	Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	F,S,SSII	
MATH 142 <sup>b</sup>	Business Mathematics II (Calculus)	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
STAT 303	Statistical Methods	Credit 3	F,S,SSI,SSII	
<b>RECOMMENDED DEPENDING ON BACKGROUND</b>				
AGEC 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 622	Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting	Credit 3	Spring	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>c</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>REQUIRED COURSES</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>d</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Ag. Econ	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization <b>OR</b>		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics		Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Electives<sup>e</sup>:</b>				
		Credit 3		
		Credit 3		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 691 <sup>f</sup>	Research	Credit 30	All	
<b>Field Requirement (12 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 672 and 676 <b>OR</b>	Fundamentals and Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics	Credit 6	Fall/Spring	
AGEC 673 or 677	Fundamentals and Frontiers in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics	Credit 6	Fall/Spring	
	Elective field course	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
	Elective field course	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
<b>Electives:</b>				
		Credit 3		
		Credit 3		

**Student's Advisory Committee:**

Chair	Member	Member	Outside Member
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Minimum Credit hours required are 96, not counting prerequisites. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed courses require written justification and approval by the student's proposed Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> or ECON 311 or AGECE 430.

<sup>b</sup> or Math 152 or 172.

<sup>c</sup> ECMT 660 is taught in Fall semester. ECON 460, taught Spring semester is a good substitute.

<sup>d</sup> or ECMT 675 or STAT 630 (STAT 414 covers much of the subject matter in STAT 630) or the STAT sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>e</sup> Choose from ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I; ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II; ECMT 669 Fundamental Mathematics for Economists; ECMT 675 Econometrics I; ECMT 677 Applied Econometrics; ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics; AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics; AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization or AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.

<sup>f</sup> Additional hours of coursework can be used to replace research hours.

**Figure 14. Straight-Through PhD: Scheduling of Curriculum**

Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<p><i>Recommended Depending on Background</i></p> <p>ECON 607 (3) Microeconomic Theory            AGECE 621 (3) Econometrics for Agribusiness</p> <p><i>Electives</i></p> <p>AGECE 608 (3) Econ of Conflict and Development            AGECE 613 (3) International Ag Development Policy            AGECE 614 (3) Global Food and Agribusiness Policy            AGECE 639 (3) Comparative Global Standards in Food Systems            AGECE 652 (3) Internat'l Agribusiness Trade Analysis            ECMT 660 (3) Mathematical Economics I</p>	<p><i>Recommended Depending on Background</i></p> <p>ECON 611 (3) Macroeconomic Theory            AGECE 622 (3) Agribusiness Analysis and Forecasting            AGECE 607 (3) Research Methodology</p> <p><i>Electives</i></p> <p>AGECE 601 (3) Commodity Fut. &amp; Opt. Markets            AGECE 603 (3) Land Economics            AGECE 604 (3) Natural Resource Economics            AGECE 605 (3) Rural Real Estate Appraisal and Organization            AGECE 606 (3) Water Resource Economics            AGECE 620 (3) Food Security Climate Conflict            AGECE 634 (3) Rural Financial Markets &amp; Planning            AGECE 638 (3) Managerial Economics for Regulatory Science</p>	<p><i>Quantitative Methods</i></p> <p>ECON<sup>a</sup> Math Prep            ECON<sup>a</sup> Stat Prep</p> <p><i>Electives</i></p>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<p>Required</p> <p>ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I            AGECE 661 (3) Applied Econometrics I</p> <p>Quantitative Methods</p> <p>ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics I            STAT 630 (3) Overview of Math Stat            STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I</p>	<p>Required</p> <p>ECON 630 (4) Microeconomic Theory II            AGECE 662 (3) Applied Econometrics II</p> <p>Quantitative Methods</p> <p>AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research            STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II</p> <p>Elective</p>	<p>Required</p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p> <p>Electives</p> <p>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup>            (Offered May and August)</p>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<p>Required</p> <p>AGECE 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. &amp; Welfare Econ.</p> <p>Quantitative Methods</p> <p>AGECE 643 (3) Applied Simulation</p> <p>Field Courses</p> <p>AGECE 671 (3) Fundamentals: Agribusiness            AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets            AGECE 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources</p>	<p>Quantitative Methods</p> <p>AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research Theory            AGECE 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization</p> <p>Field Courses</p> <p>AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets            AGECE 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources            AGECE 695 (3) Frontiers: Agribusiness</p>	<p>Optional Field Elective</p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p> <p>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup>            (Offered in January and May)</p>
Fall (Fourth Year)	Spring (Fourth Year)	Summer (Fourth Year)
<p>Field Electives</p> <p>AGECE 671 (3) Fundamentals: Agribusiness            AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets            AGECE 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>AGECE 691 Research            Oral Prelim</p>	<p>Field Electives</p> <p>AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets            AGECE 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources            AGECE 695 (3) Frontiers: Agribusiness</p> <p>Optional</p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p>	<p>Optional Field Elective</p> <p>AGECE 691 Research</p>

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGECE 661 and AGECE 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGECE 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student's dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.



**Figure 15. Straight-Through PhD: Typical Schedule**

Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
AGECE 621 (3) ECON 607 (3) ECMT 660 (3)	AGECE 607 (3) AGECE 622 (3) ECON 611 (3)	<b>Quantitative Methods</b> Stat Prep Math Prep These Prep courses are taught in August
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
ECON 629 (3) AGECE 661 (3) ECMT 675 (3)	AGECE 662 (3) AGECE 641 (3) ECON 630 (3)	AGECE 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> (Offered May and August)
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
AGECE 636 (3) or 643 (3) AGECE 643 (3) Field Course (3)	Field Elective (3) Field Elective, Econ Theory or Quant Elective (6)	AGECE 691(6) <i>Written Field Prelim</i> (Offered January and May)
Fall (Fourth Year)	Spring (Fourth Year)	Summer (Fourth Year)
Field Elective, Econ Theory or Quant Elective (6) AGECE 691 <i>Oral Prelim</i>	AGECE 691	AGECE 691

# **PHD DEGREE in AGRIBUSINESS AND MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS**

## **Degree Requirements**

The PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics (PhD in ABME) is an interdisciplinary program offered by the Intercollegiate Faculty of Agribusiness (IFA) with faculty from both the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Mays Business School. A description of the structure of this PhD program can be found in Figure 16. This program has a required core of applied economics courses offered through the Economics and Agricultural Economics departments. Current PhD programs in Finance, Marketing, Management and Supply Chain Management will support the degree through courses taught by Mays Business School faculty. A hallmark of this PhD program is that graduates will have the ability to integrate analytical skills across both economics and business disciplines.

PhD students are expected to gain an acceptable level of competency in economic theory, quantitative methods, and their field areas. The courses necessary to meet PhD requirements are listed below. Any alterations in course requirements must be accompanied by a written explanation from the student (and endorsed by the student's advisory committee chair) to the Co-Chair of the PhD in ABME Operations Committee at the time the degree plan or any petition to alter the plan is submitted. The Co-Chair of the PhD in ABME Operations Committee must approve alterations in course requirements.

### ***Credit Hour Requirements***

PhD degree plans must reflect a minimum of 64 hours beyond the Master's degree and prerequisites, including course work and research credits (AGEC 691). Course work counted toward a Master's degree cannot be counted in the total hours required for a PhD student's degree plan but can satisfy the specific course requirements listed below. A minimum of 6 hours in specific courses in the Mays Business School will be required for each area of emphasis.

### ***Prerequisites***

Minimum prerequisites include a Master of Agribusiness, an MS in Agricultural Economics or Economics, an MS degree in a business field such as Finance, Accounting, Management, Marketing or Information Systems, an MBA, or equivalent degree. Depending upon the student's background, specific prerequisite courses may be required.

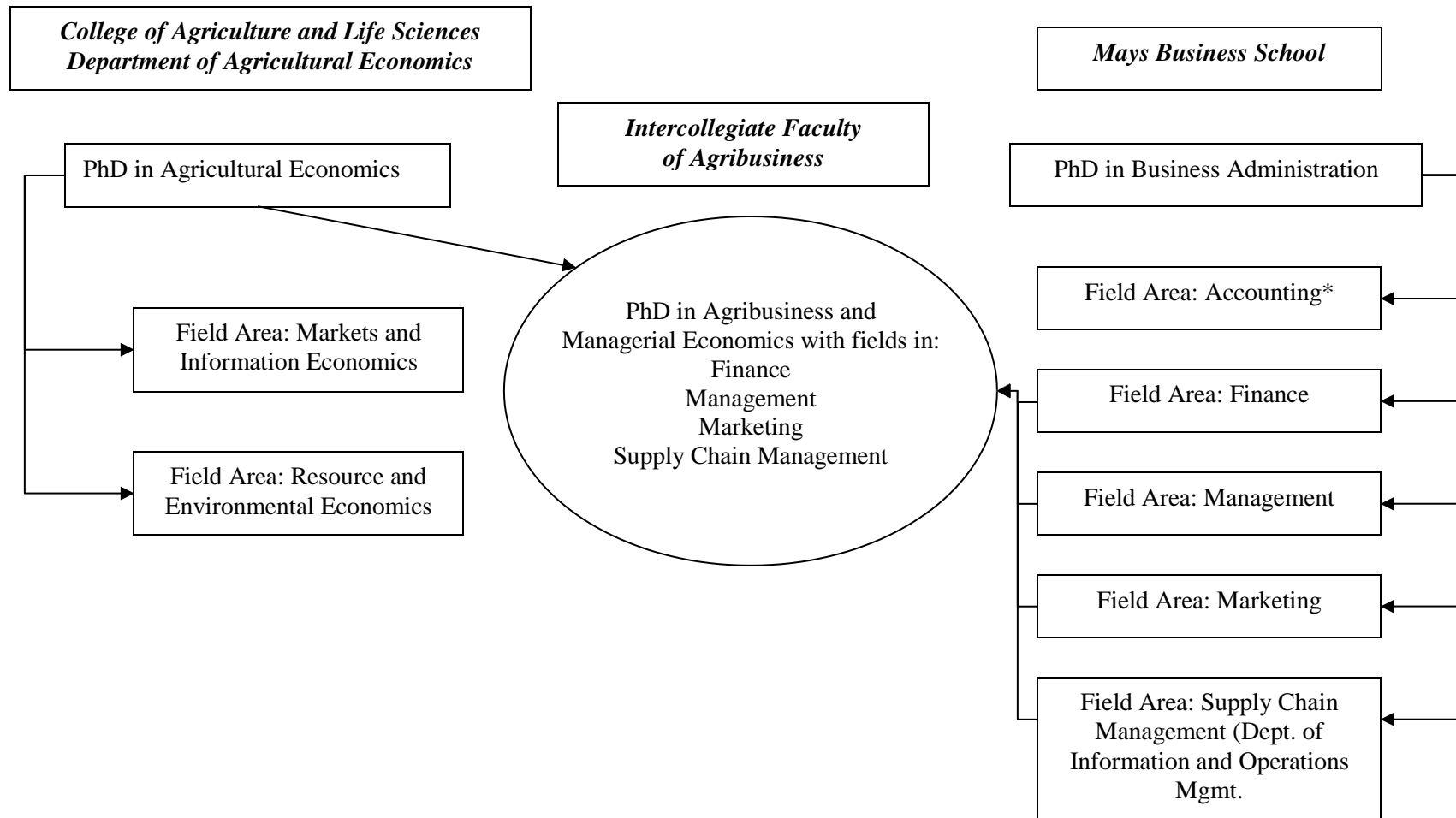
A student undertaking a 64-hour program of study leading to the PhD degree must have completed the following or equivalent courses:

ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory
AGEC 621	Econometrics for Agribusiness
ECMT 660	Mathematical Economics I
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (not required if student has completed a MS thesis)

A solid foundation is critical to success in the ABME PhD program. Hence, in addition to the prerequisite courses, all beginning students are encouraged to take a Departmental on-line math camp that will be offered as a non-credit course during the summer preceding the start of the PhD program. In addition to the Departmental math camp, students are encouraged to take or audit the Math Prep and Stat Prep courses offered by the Department of Economics early August. After the math and stat prep courses, students

starting the PhD program will take a placement exam that covers required mathematical concepts. If, in the judgment of the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, the student is deficient in any subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the student maybe required to satisfy additional prerequisites before starting the required PhD courses listed below. This will not affect the student's status in the program or funding.

Figure 16. Structure of PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics Program



\* The PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics does not propose a field area in accounting at this time.

## ***Second Year Continuation in Program***

Continuation in the PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics will be evaluated after the student has completed the first semester of fall core courses. Continuation will be based on criteria established by the PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics operations committee of the IFA. The IFA will set the continuation standards for the program, and provide oversight of the evaluation process. These standards will be consistent with those of existing PhD programs offered by the Mays Business School and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University.

### ***Program Requirements:***

Competency in economic theory and application is expected. Two courses (6 credit hours) are taken to meet the minimum microeconomic theory requirement.

### ***Economic Theory and Applications***

#### **Microeconomic Theory:**

ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I .....	3 Credits
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II .....	3 Credits

***Total economic theory requirements..... 6 Credits***

### ***Core Requirements***

One course (3 credit hours) covering advanced material which comprise a common body of critical knowledge is required for all PhD students.

#### **Core Requirements**

AGEC 636	Agribusiness Markets and Applied Welfare Analysis.....	3 Credits
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***Total Core Requirements .....3 Credits***

**Total Economic Theory and Applications .....9 Credits**

### ***Quantitative Methods***

Three courses (11 credit hours) in quantitative methods are required for the PhD degree in agricultural economics. These courses are:

ECMT 675*	Econometrics I.....	3 Credits
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources I.....	3 Credits
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources II.....	3 Credits

Two out of the following three courses:

AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics .....	3 Credits
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization.....	3 Credits
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics.....	3 Credits

\* or STAT 630, or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

**Total quantitative methods requirements .....15 Credits**

### ***Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective***

Students must choose two or more of the following courses to augment their studies in economic theory or quantitative methods:

AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics
AGEC 672	Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics
AGEC 676	Frontiers in Market and Information Economics
ECON 636	Macroeconomic Theory I
ECON 646	Macroeconomic Theory II
ECMT 677	Applied Microeconometrics
ECMT 678	Advanced Topics
Econometrics	

### **Total Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective..... 6 Credits**

Other graduate courses may be required or recommended depending on the student's area of emphasis. If, in the judgment of the student's Advisory Committee chair or Co-Chair of the PhD in ABME Operations Committee, the student is deficient in other subject matter areas important to his/her graduate program, the student may be required to satisfy additional requirements.

### ***Field Area***

Four field areas are offered: (1) finance, (2) strategic management, (3) marketing, and (4) supply chain management. Students are required to take specific courses offered by the Finance (FINC), Management (MGMT), Marketing (MKTG) and Information and Operations Management departments in the Mays Business School. This is in addition to core courses in the Agricultural Economics (AGEC) and Economics (ECON) departments.

### **Finance emphasis:**

#### **Field Requirements:**

AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics .....	3 Credits
AGEC 695*	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics.....	3 Credits
FINC 688**	Seminar in Corporate Finance .....	3 Credits
FINC 688**	Seminar in Asset Pricing.....	3 Credits

*\* This course will be taught under direction of the Chair of the student's graduate advisory committee. The Chair of the student's advisory committee can take an active role in teaching this class, allow students to take parts of AGEC 676 Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics, allow students to take directed readings from selected faculty, or any combinations of these alternatives. The Chair of the student's advisory committee may also allow the student to substitute AGEC 676 for AGEC 695. When the course is taught as an AGEC 695 course, the student will enroll in a section opened for the Chair of the student's advisory committee.*

*\*\*Two finance sequences are offered, Asset Pricing and Corporate Finance, with a theory and an empirical course for each. A doctoral seminar in Research Methods is also offered depending on the availability of instructors. ABME students are required to take two doctoral seminars. It is recommended that students take the asset pricing or corporate finance sequence. However, students can take any of the doctoral seminars with the exception that the empirical seminars cannot be taken before taking the associated theory course. The theory courses are taught in each year. Typically, the asset pricing theory is taught in the fall and the corporate finance theory is taught in*

*the spring. The empirical course for asset pricing and the empirical course for corporate finance are taught every other year. The sequencing of all doctoral seminars is dependent on the availability of faculty to teach these courses and under the direction of the Finance Department.*

Total Field Requirement..... 12 Credits

**Total Minimum Course Requirements ..... 41 Credits**

***Research***

AGEC 691 Research..... 23 Credits

All PhD students must attain a level of understanding of philosophy of science comparable to AGEC 607 (Research Methodology) and a working knowledge of the use of computers in research and teaching. Additional hours of coursework and FINC 690 Research Topics Seminar can be used to replace research hours. ABME students are invited and encouraged to attend the Finance Friday seminars. It is expected that this will help ABME students to better understand the research methodology used to publish in the finance literature.

**Total Credits ..... 64 Credits**

*Marketing emphasis:*

Field Requirements:

AGEC 671 Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics ..... 3 Credits  
 AGEC 695\* Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics..... 3 Credits  
 AGEC 672 Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics ..... 3 Credits

Three out of the following four courses:

MKTG 680 Seminar in Buyer Behavior..... 3 Credits  
 MKTG 682 Seminar in Marketing Strategy Research ..... 3 Credits  
 MKTG 687 Seminar in Marketing Methods ..... 3 Credits  
 MKTG 688\*\* Doctoral Seminar ..... 3 Credits

*\* This course will be taught under direction of the Chair of the student’s graduate advisory committee. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee can take an active role in teaching this class, allow students to take parts of AGEC 676 Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics, allow students to take directed readings from selected faculty, or any combinations of these alternatives. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee may also allow the student to substitute AGEC 676 for AGEC 695. When the course is taught as an AGEC 695 course, the student will enroll in a section opened for the Chair of the student’s advisory committee.*

*\*\* This course covers basic econometric. Check with the instructor to determine if this will cover new material that you haven’t already taken in AGEC 661.*

Total Field Requirement ..... 18 Credits

**Total Minimum Course Requirements ..... 47 Credits**

***Research***

AGEC 691 Research..... 16 Credits\*

Total Research Credit ..... 17 Credits

\* Additional hours of coursework can replace research hours.

**Total Credits** ..... **64 Credits**

Strategic Management emphasis:

Field Requirements:

AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics .....	3 Credits
AGEC 695*	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics.....	3 Credits
MGMT 634	Seminar in Organizational Behavior.....	3 Credits
MGMT 636	Seminar in Organizational Theory.....	3 Credits
MGMT 676	Strategic Management Survey .....	3 Credits

*\* This course will be taught under direction of the Chair of the student’s graduate advisory committee. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee can take an active role in teaching this class, allow students to take parts of AGECE 676 Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics, allow students to take directed readings from selected faculty, or any combinations of these alternatives. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee may also allow the student to substitute AGECE 676 for AGECE 695. When the course is taught as an AGECE 695 course, the student will enroll in a section opened for the Chair of the student’s advisory committee.*

Total Field Requirement ..... 15 Credits

**Total Minimum Course Requirements** ..... **44 Credits**

**Research**

AGECE 691 Research..... 20 Credits\*

\* Additional hours of coursework can replace research hours.

**Total Credits** ..... **64 Credits**

Supply Chain Management emphasis (Department of Information and Operations Management):

Field Requirements:

AGECE 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics .....	3 Credits
AGECE 695*	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics.....	3 Credits
AGECE 672	Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics .....	3 Credits
SCMT 688	Doctoral Seminar.....	6 Credits

*\* This course will be taught under direction of the Chair of the student’s graduate advisory committee. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee can take an active role in teaching this class, allow students to take parts of AGECE 676 Frontiers in Markets and Information Economics, allow students to take directed readings from selected faculty, or any combinations of these alternatives. The Chair of the student’s advisory committee may also allow the student to substitute AGECE 676 for AGECE 695. When the course is taught as an AGECE 695 course, the student will enroll in a section opened for the Chair of the student’s advisory committee.*

Total Field Requirement ..... 15 Credits



**Total Minimum Course Requirements ..... 44 Credits**

***Research***

SCMT 690 Theory of Research in Information and Operations Management..... 3 Credits

AGEC 691 Research..... 17 Credits

Total Research Credit..... 12 Credits\*

\* Additional hours of coursework can replace research hours.

**Total Credits ..... 64 Credits**

There is no specific commitment from the Mays Business School to offer a particular doctoral seminar every year or during a particular term, as course offerings vary with the size of departmental programs and the availability of faculty to teach a particular topic.

**Variable Credit Courses**

Variable credit courses (AGEC 685 and 691) will require the completion of a commitment form. Each AGEC 685 Directed Studies course taken must have a completed [commitment form](#) on file in the Graduate Office. For AGEC 691, the [commitment form](#) is required only for research hours requested before completion of prelims.

**Dissertation and Proposal**

A dissertation based upon original research is required for the PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics degree. A dissertation proposal must be filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The proposal coversheet can be found on the [Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website](#). It should be completed as early in the student’s program as the planned research project can be outlined in reasonable detail. The proposal must be completed and submitted to the student’s Advisory Committee prior to the Oral Preliminary Examination, which includes a defense of the dissertation proposal. To be sure required procedures are followed, consult the [Thesis Manual](#) for detailed instruction on the formatting of the dissertation.

**Straight-Through PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics**

Students wanting to go straight through from a BS to a PhD degree are required to complete a 96-hour program typically including course work and research (AGEC 691). The required coursework is the same as the PhD curriculum. If a student has been admitted for a straight-through PhD degree, thereby by-passing the Master’s degree, he/she will be classified as G7 until 30 hours of course work applicable to the doctoral degree have been completed, after which his/her classification will be changed to G8. For more information on the straight-through PhD, see the section on Straight-Through PhD as written in the section for “PhD Degree.”

***Planning Schedules***

The figures that follow have been prepared to assist the student in planning the PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics program. The Degree Planning Guide figure summarizes the degree requirements for the PhD. The Scheduling of Curriculum figure provides information to help sequence the courses for the PhD degree. The Typical Scheduling figure provides a typical schedule for PhD students.

For the **Finance option**, the applicable figures are Figures 17-19.

For the **Marketing option**, the applicable figures are Figures 20-22.

For the **Strategic Management option**, the applicable figures are Figures 23-25.

For the **Supply Chain Management option**, the applicable figures are Figures 26-28.

## Figure 17. Degree Planning Guide – ABME: Finance Option

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>Prerequisites or Equivalents:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (or MS thesis)	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 621	Econometrics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>a</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Required Courses:</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>b</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric in Agriculture and Resources I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric in Agriculture and Resources II	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Ag. Econ	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization <b>OR</b>		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics		Fall	
Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective <sup>c</sup>		Credit 6		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 691 <sup>d</sup>	Research	Credit 22		
<b>Field Requirement (15 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 695	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
FINC 688 <sup>e</sup>	Doctoral Seminars	Credit 6	Fall/Spring	

### Student's Advisory Committee:

Minimum credit hours required, not counting prerequisites are 64. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed course require written justification and approval by the proposed student's Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> ECON 460 is a good substitute in semesters ECMT 660 is not taught.

<sup>b</sup> or STAT 630 or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>c</sup> Choose from AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization, AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 672 Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics, AGECE 676 Frontiers in Market and Information Economics, ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I, ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II, ECMT 677 Applied Microeconometrics, ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics.

<sup>d</sup> Additional hours of coursework and FINC 690 Research Topics Seminar can be used to replace research hours.

<sup>e</sup> Two finance sequences are offered, Asset Pricing and Corporate Finance, with a theory and an empirical course for each. A doctoral seminar in Research Methods is also offered depending on the availability of instructors. ABME students are required to take two doctoral seminars. It is recommended that students take the asset pricing or corporate finance sequence. However, students can take any of the doctoral seminars with the exception that the empirical seminars cannot be taken before taking the associated theory course. The theory courses are taught in each year. Typically, the asset pricing theory is taught in the fall and the corporate finance theory is taught in the spring. The empirical course for asset pricing and the empirical course for corporate finance are taught every other year. The sequencing of all doctoral seminars is dependent on the availability of faculty to teach these courses.

Figure 18. PhD Scheduling of Curriculum – ABME: Finance Option

		Summer (Month of August)
		<b>Quantitative Methods</b> ECON Stat Prep ECMT <sup>a</sup> Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<b>Required</b> ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I AGECE 661 (3) Applied Econometrics I ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics I <b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I	<b>Required</b> ECON 630 (4) Microeconomic Theory II AGECE 662 (3) Applied Econometric II AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research Theory <b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II <b>Research</b>	<b>Required</b> AGECE 691 Research <i>Electives</i>  <i>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup></i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<b>Required</b> AGECE 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. & Welfare Econ. <b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGECE 643 (3) Applied Simulation <b>Field Courses</b> AGECE 671 (3) Fundamentals in Agribusiness & Managerial Economics AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets FINC 688 <sup>d</sup> (3) Doctoral Seminar	<b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research Theory AGECE 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization <b>Field Courses</b> AGECE 695 (3) Frontiers in Agbus. & Ag Econ AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets FINC 688 <sup>d</sup> (3) Doctoral Seminar  <b>Research</b>	AGECE 691 Research  <i>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup></i> <i>(Offered in January and May)</i>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<b>Field Elective</b> FINC 688 <sup>c</sup> (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets <b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research <i>Oral Prelim</i>	<b>Field Electives</b> AGECE 695 (3) Frontiers in Agbus. & Ag Econ FINC 688 <sup>d</sup> (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets <b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research	<b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGECE 661 and AGECE 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGECE 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student's dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.

<sup>c</sup> These courses will not always be taught and are dependent on the availability of instructors.

**Figure 19. PhD: Typical Schedule – ABME: Finance Option**

		Summer (prior to first Fall)
		Stat Prep Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
ECON 629 (3) AGEC 662 (3) ECMT 675 (3)	ECON 630 (3) AGEC 661 (3) AGEC 641 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
AGEC 636 (3) or AGEC 671 (3) or AGEC 643 (6) FINC 688 <sup>a</sup> , AGEC 672 or Quant. Elective (3)	AGEC 695 (3) AGEC 642 or FINC 688 <sup>a</sup> or Quant. Elective (6)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Written Field Prelim (May)<sup>b</sup></i>
	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
FINC 688 <sup>a</sup> , AGEC 672 or Quant Elective (3) AGEC 636 (3) or AGEC 671 (3) or AGEC 643 (3) AGEC 691 (3) <i>Oral Prelim (Before January)</i>	FINC 688 <sup>a</sup> or Quant. Elective (3) AGEC 691 (6)	AGEC 691 (6)

<sup>a</sup>Typically, the asset pricing theory is taught in the fall and the corporate finance theory is taught in the spring. The empirical course for asset pricing and the empirical course for corporate finance are taught every other year. The sequencing of all doctoral seminars is dependent on the availability of faculty to teach these courses..

<sup>b</sup> The written prelim may be postponed to the third year if it is not possible to take the required doctoral seminars in the Finance Department in the second year.

**Figure 20. PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics –  
Marketing Option: Degree Planning Guide**

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>Prerequisites or Equivalents:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (or MS thesis)	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 621	Econometrics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>a</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Required Courses:</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>b</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources II	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Ag. Econ	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization <b>OR</b>		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics		Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric Methods II	Credit 3	Fall	
Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective <sup>c</sup>		Credit 6		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 691 <sup>d</sup>	Research	Credit 16		
<b>Field Requirement (18 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 695	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
AGEC 672	Fundamentals in Markets and Information Econ	Credit 3	Spring	
Take three of the following four classes				
MKTG 680	Seminar in Buyer Behavior	Credit 3	Spring	
MKTG 682	Seminar in Marketing Strategy Behavior	Credit 3	Spring	
MKTG 687	Seminar in Marketing Models	Credit 3	Fall	
MKTG 688	Doctoral Seminar	Credit 3	Fall	

**Student's Advisory Committee:**

Chair	Member	Member	Outside Member

Minimum credit hours required, not counting prerequisites are 64. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed course require written justification and approval by the proposed student's Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> ECON 460 is a good substitute in semesters ECMT 660 is not taught.

<sup>b</sup> or STAT or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>c</sup> Choose from AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization, AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 672 Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics, AGECE 676 Frontiers in Market and Information Economics, ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I, ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II, ECMT 677 Applied Microeconomics, ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics,.

<sup>d</sup> Research credits may be replaced by course credits.

**Figure 21. PhD Scheduling of Curriculum – Marketing Option**

		Summer (Month of August)
		<b>Quantitative Methods</b> ECON Stat Prep ECMT Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<p><b>Required</b> ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I AGEC 661 (3) Applied Econometrics ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics I</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I</p>	<p><b>Required</b> ECON 630 (4) Microeconomic Theory II AGEC 662 (3) Applied Econometric II AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research Theory</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b></p>	<p><b>Required</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Electives</i></p> <p><i>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup></i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i></p>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<p><b>Required</b> AGEC 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. &amp; Welfare Econ</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 643 (3) Applied Simulation</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> AGEC 671 (3) Fundamentals in Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets MKTG 687 (3) Seminar in Marketing Models MKTG 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar</p>	<p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research Theory AGEC 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> AGEC 695 (3) Frontiers in Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Frontiers: Markets MKTG 680 (3) Seminar in Buyer Behavior MKTG 682 (3) Seminar in Marketing Strategy Research</p>	<p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup></i> <i>(Offered in January and May)</i></p>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<p><b>Field Elective</b> AGEC 671 (3) Fundamentals in Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets MKTG 687 (3) Seminar in Marketing Models MKTG 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar <b>AGEC 691 Research</b> <i>Oral Prelim</i></p>	<p><b>Field Electives</b> AGEC 695 (3) Frontiers in Agribusiness AGEC 672 (3) Frontiers: Markets MKTG 680 (3) Seminar in Buyer Behavior MKTG 682 (3) Seminar in Marketing Strategy Res. AGEC 691 Research</p>	<p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p>

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGEC 661 and AGEC 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGEC 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student's dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.

**Figure 22. PhD: Typical Schedule – Marketing Option**

		Summer (prior to first Fall)
		ECON Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
ECON 629 (3) AGEC 661 (3) ECMT 675 (3)	ECON 630 (3) AGEC 662 (3) AGEC 641 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
AGEC 636 or AGEC 671 or AGEC 643 (3) AGEC 672 (3) MKTG 687 (3)	AGEC 642 or AGEC 676 (3) AGEC 695 (3) MKTG 680 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Written Field Prelim<sup>a</sup></i> <i>(Offered January and May)</i>
	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
AGEC 636 or AGEC 643 or AGEC 671 (3) AGEC 691 (3) AGEC 672 or Quant Elective <i>Oral Prelim</i>	AGEC 642 or AGEC 676 or Quant Elective (3) MKTG 682 (3) AGEC 691 (3)	AGEC 691 (6)

<sup>a</sup> The written prelim may be postponed to the third year if it is not possible to take the required doctoral seminars in the Marketing Department in the second year.

**Figure 23. PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics –  
Strategic Management Option: Degree Planning Guide**

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>Prerequisites or Equivalents:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (or MS thesis)	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 621	Econometrics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>a</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Required Courses:</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>b</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric In Agriculture and Resources II	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Ag. Econ	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization <b>OR</b>		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics		Fall	
	Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective <sup>c</sup>	Credit 6		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 691 <sup>d</sup>	Research	Credit 20		
<b>Field Requirement (15 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 695	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
MGMT 634	Seminar in Organizational Behavior	Credit 3	Fall	
MGMT 636	Seminar in Organizational Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
MGMT 676	Strategic Management Survey	Credit 3	Fall	

**Student's Advisory Committee:**

Chair	Member	Member	Outside Member

Minimum credit hours required, not counting prerequisites are 64. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed course require written justification and approval by the proposed student's Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> ECON 460 is a good substitute in semesters ECMT 660 is not taught.

<sup>b</sup> or STAT 630 or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>c</sup> Choose from AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization, AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 672 Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics, AGECE 676 Frontiers in Market and Information Economics, ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I, ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II, ECMT 677 Applied Microeconometrics, ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics.,

<sup>d</sup> Research credits may be replaced by course credits.



**Figure 24. PhD Scheduling of Curriculum – Strategic Management Option**

		Summer (Month of August)
		<b>Quantitative Methods</b> ECON <sup>a</sup> Stat Prep ECMT <sup>a</sup> Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<p><b>Required</b> ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I AGEC 661 (3) Applied Econometric Methods I ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics I</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I</p>	<p><b>Required</b> ECON 630 (3) Microeconomic Theory II AGEC 662 (3) Applied Econometric II AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research Theory</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b></p>	<p><b>Required</b> <i>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup></i> (Offered May and August)</p>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<p><b>Required</b> AGEC 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. &amp; Welfare Econ</p> <p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 643 (3) Applied Simulation</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> MGMT 634 (3) Seminar in Organizational Behavior AGEC 671 (3) Fundamentals in Agribusiness &amp; Managerial Economics AGEC 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources AGEC 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets</p>	<p><b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGEC 641 (3) Operations Research Theory AGEC 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization</p> <p><b>Field Courses</b> AGEC 695 (3) Frontiers in Agbus. &amp; Ag Econ MGMT 636 (3) Seminar in Organizational Theory AGEC 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets AGEC 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources</p>	<p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup></i> (Offered in January and May)</p>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<p><b>Field Elective</b> MGMT 676 (3) Seminar in Strategic Management AGEC 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources AGEC 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets</p> <p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p> <p><i>Oral Prelim</i></p>	<p><b>Field Electives</b> MGMT 677 (3) Strategy Implementation MGMT 682 (3) Ind. Organ. And Strategy Mgmt.</p> <p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p>	<p><b>Research</b> AGEC 691 Research</p>

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGEC 661 and AGEC 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGEC 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student's dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.

**Figure 25. PhD: Typical Schedule – Strategic Management Option**

		Summer (prior to first Fall)
		ECON Math Prep ECMT Stat Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
ECON 629 (3) AGEC 661 (3)  ECMT 675 (3)	ECON 630 (3) AGEC 662 (3) AGEC 641 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
AGEC 636 (3) AGEC 671 or AGEC 643 (3) MGMT 634 (3)	AGEC 642 or AGEC 676 or Quant Elective (3) AGEC 695 (3) MGMT 636 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Written Field Prelim</i> <i>(Offered January and May)</i>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
MGMT 676 (3) AGEC 643 (3) or AGEC 691 (3) AGEC 672 or Quant Elective (3) <i>Oral Prelim</i>	AGEC 691 (3)	AGEC 691 (6)

**Figure 26. PhD in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics –  
Supply Chain Management Option: Degree Planning Guide**

(Revised 10/28/2020)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Course Description	Credits	Semester Offered	Year Taken
<b>Prerequisites or Equivalents:</b>				
AGEC 607	Research Methodology (or MS thesis)	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 621	Econometrics in Agribusiness	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 607	Foundations of Microeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 611	Foundations of Macroeconomic Theory	Credit 3	Spring	
ECMT 660 <sup>a</sup>	Mathematical Economics I	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Required Courses:</b>				
<b>Economic Theory:</b>				
ECON 629	Microeconomic Theory I	Credit 3	Fall	
ECON 630	Microeconomic Theory II	Credit 3	Spring	
<b>Core Requirement:</b>				
AGEC 636	Agribusiness Mkts. and Applied Welfare Analysis	Credit 3	Fall	
<b>Quantitative Methods:</b>				
ECMT 675 <sup>b</sup>	Econometrics I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 661	Applied Econometric Methods I	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 662	Applied Econometric Methods II	Credit 3	Spring	
AGEC 641	Operations Research Methods in Ag. Econ	Credit 6	Spring	
AGEC 642	Dynamic Optimization <b>OR</b>		Spring	
AGEC 643	Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics		Fall	
Economic Theory or Quantitative Methods Elective <sup>c</sup>		Credit 6		
<b>Research Requirement:</b>				
SCMT 690	Theory of Research in Information and Op. Mgmt.	Credit 3	Summer	
AGEC 691 <sup>d</sup>	Research	Credit 19		
<b>Field Requirement (15 Credits Required):</b>				
AGEC 671	Fundamentals in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall	
AGEC 695	Frontiers in Agribusiness and Managerial Econ	Credit 3	Fall/Spring	
AGEC 672	Fundamentals in Markets and Information Econ	Credit 3	Spring	
SCMT 688	Doctoral Seminar	Credit 6		

**Student's Advisory Committee:**

Chair	Member	Member	Outside Member

Minimum credit hours required, not counting prerequisites are 64. The course requirements listed above can also be met by taking equivalent courses as part of a MS program or as graduate credit from another Department or University. Departures from listed course require written justification and approval by the proposed student's Advisory Committee Chair and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at the time the degree plan is filed.

<sup>a</sup> ECON 460 is a good substitute in semesters ECMT 660 is not taught.

<sup>b</sup> or STAT 630 or sequence STAT 610 and STAT 611.

<sup>c</sup> Choose from AGECE 641 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 642 Dynamic Optimization, AGECE 643 Applied Simulation in Agricultural Economics, AGECE 672 Fundamentals in Markets and Information Economics, AGECE 676 Frontiers in Market and Information Economics, ECON 636 Macroeconomic Theory I, ECON 646 Macroeconomic Theory II, ECMT 677 Applied Microeconometrics, ECMT 678 Advanced Topics in Econometrics.

<sup>d</sup> Research credits may be replaced by course credits.

**Figure 27. PhD Scheduling of Curriculum – Supply Chain Management Option**

		Summer (Month of August)
		<b>Quantitative Methods</b> ECON Stat Prep ECMT Math Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
<b>Required</b> ECON 629 (3) Microeconomic Theory I AGECE 661 (3) Applied Econometric Methods I ECMT 675 (3) Econometrics <b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 610 (3) Theory of Statistics I	<b>Required</b> ECON 630 (4) Microeconomic Theory II AGECE 662 (3) Applied Econometric Methods II AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research Theory <b>Quantitative Methods</b> STAT 611 (3) Theory of Statistics II <b>Field Courses</b>	<b>Required</b> AGECE 691 Research (6) <b>Qualifier Examination<sup>a</sup></b> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
<b>Required</b> AGECE 636 (3) Agribus. Mkts. & Welfare Econ <b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGECE 643 (3) Applied Simulation <b>Field Courses</b> AGECE 671 (3) Fundamentals in Agribusiness & Managerial Economics SCMT 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets	<b>Quantitative Methods</b> AGECE 641 (3) Operations Research Theory AGECE 642 (3) Dynamic Optimization <b>Field Courses</b> AGECE 695 (3) Frontiers in Agbus. & Ag Econ SCMT 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets AGECE 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources	<b>Research</b> SCMT690(3)Research in Information and Operations Management AGECE 691 Research  <b>Written Field Prelim<sup>b</sup></b> <i>(Offered in January and May)</i>
Fall (Third Year)	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
<b>Field Elective</b> SCMT 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 673 (3) Fundamentals: Resources AGECE 676 (3) Frontiers: Markets <b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research <b>Oral Prelim</b>	<b>Field Electives</b> SCMT 688 (3) Doctoral Seminar AGECE 672 (3) Fundamentals: Markets AGECE 677 (3) Frontiers: Resources <b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research	<b>Research</b> AGECE 691 Research

<sup>a</sup> Offered in May and August. Covers ECON 629, ECON 630, ECMT 675 (or STAT 660 for statistical tools), AGECE 661 and AGECE 662.

<sup>b</sup> Offered in January and May. Field area and material covered from the core and quantitative methods courses will be integrated into the exams. These courses include AGECE 636, 641, 642, 643, and their prerequisites, with flexibility allowed for enrollment in 641, 642 or 643. After passing the oral preliminary exam that includes a presentation of the student’s dissertation proposal must be taken before the next administration of the written field preliminary exams.

**Figure 28. PhD: Typical Schedule – Supply Chain Management Option**

		Summer (prior to first Fall)
		ECON Math Prep ECMT Stat Prep
Fall (First Year)	Spring (First Year)	Summer (First Year)
ECON 629 (3) AGEC 661 (3) ECMT 675 (3)	ECON 630 (3) AGEC 662 (3) AGEC 641 (3)	AGEC 691 (6) <i>Qualifier Examination</i> <i>(Offered May and August)</i>
Fall (Second Year)	Spring (Second Year)	Summer (Second Year)
AGEC 671 (3) AGEC 636 (3) SCMT 688 (3)	AGEC 642 or AGEC 676 or Quant Elective (3) AGEC 695 (3) SCMT 688 (3)	SCMT 690 (3) AGEC 691 (3) <i>Written Field Prelim</i> <i>(Offered January and May)</i>
	Spring (Third Year)	Summer (Third Year)
AGEC 643 (3) AGEC 672 or Quant Elective (3) AGEC 691 (6) <i>Oral Prelim</i>	AGEC 691 (9)	AGEC 691 (6)

## DEGREE PLAN

The University regulations regarding the completion and filing of the student's degree plan are discussed in the [Graduate Catalog](#). The following discussion summarizes the major features associated with the degree plan procedure. Degree Planning Guides are found in Figures 2, 5, 8, 11, and 14.

### Online Degree Plan Submission System

The automated degree plan submission system is found at <http://OGAPSDpss.tamu.edu/> and is accessed with your NetID and password. You will need to enter all courses you will take, are taking, or have taken for the degree program you are in. You will also need to name all of your committee members. All members of your committee must be graduate faculty.

Once you have all the information entered for your degree plan, you must be sure that you complete the process by clicking the "Submit" button. The degree plan will then be routed electronically to all committee members, the Department, and OGAPS for approval. When the degree plan has completed the entire process, you will receive an email letting you know. If a problem is encountered along the way and your degree plan is rejected, you will also receive that information by email and you will need to go back in to the online degree plan submission system to make corrections and resubmit.

MS and MAB students in their 2nd semester, PhD students in their 4th semester, or straight-through PhDs in their 5th semester must submit a degree plan before pre-registration for the next semester. The approval process can take up to 90 days, so please start early. If you wait until the last minute to submit your degree plan, your registration may be delayed and you may not be able to register for the classes you need.

#### *Special Instructions for MAB Students:*

1. In the online degree plan submission system you will be asked for your department. MABs must choose "Agribusiness".
2. Your committee consists of the Director of the MAB program as chair. That is the only name you need to enter.

Once your degree plan is submitted, any changes you make to your degree plan by petition will not be reflected here. To find your up-to-date degree plan, you must go to the [Howdy Portal](#) and do a degree evaluation.

### Purpose of Degree Plan

The degree plan sets forth the selection of courses graduate students must complete to satisfy the requirements for their degree. Changes can be made to the degree plan by submitting a petition, found on the [Degree Plan Submission Website](#).

### Course Selections

The courses students choose to include in their degree plan depend upon the degree and option or field area selected.

### Grade Requirements

Students must maintain cumulative and degree plan GPRs of at least 3.0 with no grade of D, F, or U for any course on the degree plan. Further, students must earn a cumulative GPR of at least 3.0 for all 300, 400, and 600 level courses.

## Advisory Committee Structure

The student's Advisory Committee consists of their major advisor or committee chair plus a specific number of additional members of the University's Graduate Faculty (see graduate faculty listings in the [Graduate Catalog](#)). All Advisory Committee members must be Graduate Faculty. One of the members of the student's Committee must come from another department (hence the term "outside member"). Master's students must have a minimum of three members including the committee chair. PhD students must have a minimum of four Committee members including the committee chair. Each member will approve the degree plan electronically, as well as the Associate Head for Graduate Programs and the Office of Graduate Studies. An approved copy is retained in the student's file.

## Filing Deadline

MS and MAB students in their 2nd semester, PhD students in their 3rd semester, or straight-through PhDs in their 4th semester must submit a degree plan before pre-registration for the next semester.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. If I wish to deviate from Departmental policy concerning curriculum, what procedure should I follow?
- A. After you have discussed the nature of your intentions with your advisor, the next step is to prepare a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions to submit through the Degree Plan Submission System to the Associate Head for Graduate Programs outlining the policy you wish to petition and the reasons for your petition. After reviewing your petition, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs may circulate your petition to GAC for their recommendation. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs will inform you and your advisor whether or not your petition has been granted. Any deviation from this procedure will not be considered as a proper petition.
- Q. What will happen if I fail to file a degree plan by the deadline?
- A. You will be blocked from registration by the Office of Graduate Studies and/or the Department. The block will be removed when an approved degree plan is on file.
- Q. Can any required course be replaced with another course?
- A. Yes, if your Advisory Committee and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs approve. A written justification should accompany the request.
- Q. How do I sign up for AGEC 691, AGEC 685, or AGEC693?
- A. After completing a Commitment Form or Proposal form, if required, you must ask the Department Graduate Office to open a section for the instructor of record.
- Q. How do I make changes in my Advisory Committee after filing a degree plan?
- A. Submit a petition to the Office of Graduate Studies through the [Degree Plan Submission system](#) signed by all members of your current and proposed Advisory Committees and by the Associate Head for Graduate Programs.
- Q. How do I make changes in my degree plan once it is on file at the Office of Graduate Studies?
- A. Any changes to your approved degree plan must be entered through the [Degree Plan Submission System](#)

Q. What is an approved degree plan?

A. An approved degree plan has been submitted through the [online degree plan submission system](#), approved by the student's Advisory Committee, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, Graduate Advisory Committee (if necessary), and the Office of Graduate Studies. This process takes time, so start early.



## REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS

The administration of PhD examinations involves (1) the graduate faculty, (2) the student's Advisory Committee, (3) the Ag Econ Graduate Office and (4) the University Office of Graduate Studies. The responsibilities of the latter two offices are administrative. The responsibility of the departmental Graduate Office is to assist the graduate faculty in the administration of exams, to ensure technical correctness of petitions, forms and other required paperwork, and to keep records of the status of graduate students. It is the responsibility of the graduate faculty and the student's Advisory Committee to handle all matters academic.

The Department's PhD examinations consist of: (1) the Qualifier Examination, (2) the Preliminary Examination, consisting of one departmentally-written field preliminary exam and an oral preliminary exam, and (3) a final oral exam (defense of the dissertation).

### **Economic Theory Qualifier Examination**

All Agricultural Economics PhD students are required to pass a comprehensive Qualifier Exam. The Qualifier is administered twice a year on the Wednesday before classes begin for the first summer term and on the first Wednesday before August 1. First-year PhD students are required to take the Qualifier in May of their first year. Straight-through PhD students are required to take the Qualifier in May of their second year. Any student who is required to take the Qualifier but is not present at the administration of the examination will be deemed a "no show". A "no show" who has not formally requested and received a waiver by submitting a petition to GAC prior to the examination or provided documentation of an emergency at the time of the exam will receive a grade of "Fail" for the Qualifier.

Students may access pdf files of past Qualifier exams online to help prepare for the Qualifier. If you would like access to these exams, please contact the Grad Office.

A Qualifier Committee appointed by the Department Head will administer the Qualifier Exam. Results for each student will be reported to the departmental Graduate Office by the Qualifier Committee. The departmental Graduate Office will notify each student in writing of the results of the exam.

### ***Objectives, Scope, and Subject Matter***

The objective of the agricultural economics written Qualifier Exam is to examine the student's competency in the fundamentals of microeconomic theory and their mathematical applications. The Qualifier Exam is dominated by topics relating to microeconomic theory at the ECON 629 and ECON 630 level and econometrics at the AGECE 661 and AGECE 662 level. Students will be expected to demonstrate mastery of the basic microeconomics of production, consumption, and welfare economics, as well as perfectly and imperfectly competitive markets. Quantitative applications focus at the level of ECMT 660 for calculus and linear algebra, AGECE 621 or AGECE 661 for statistical tools, and ECMT 689 – Stat Prep or STAT 630 for mathematical statistics. Proficiency is expected in the application of mathematical tools such as linear algebra, calculus, optimization methods, linear regression, and statistical hypothesis testing to economic theory.

### ***Qualifier Retest Procedures***

A student is expected to take the Qualifier only once. However, if the student fails the Qualifier on the first attempt, a second attempt will be granted. Students who fail the Qualifier must retake the exam the next time it is offered. In the event a student fails the Qualifier twice, he/she is given the opportunity for an oral examination. Students who choose not to take the oral examination will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Oral Qualifier exams will be administered by the Qualifier Committee. If the student's advisor is a member of the Qualifier Committee, the Department Head will appoint a replacement on the Qualifier Committee for the purpose of the oral exam. The chair of the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC) or his/her appointee will be an ex-officio member of the oral Qualifier exam committee. The purpose of the Qualifier Exam is to ensure that students who obtain a Ph.D. in our department have command of the essential skills of economic theory and econometrics necessary for professional economists. The purpose of the oral examination then is to give us all confidence that the written exams did not give an incorrect signal. If a student has command of the necessary material, we want him or her to advance. On the other hand, if a student has not developed that knowledge at this point, then continuing in the program is not in the best interests of either the student or our program.

There are three possible outcomes of the oral examination, as follows:

1. The student's grade of "fail" will be changed to "pass" and he or she will be allowed to continue graduate study without taking another Qualifier Exam.
2. The student will be allowed to take the written Qualifier Exam another time.
3. The student will not be allowed to take the written Qualifier Exam another time (inferring dismissal from the Ph.D. program).

Students should be aware that the first option would indicate that the entire committee has been convinced through the oral examination that the student has strong command of the material required for the Qualifier. This goes substantially beyond an ability to answer questions on the recent examination and is a rather high standard. Similarly but not as emphatically, to be given an opportunity to take a third written exam, a student should demonstrate a mature understanding of the required material and a promising outlook for improving upon past performance. This also goes beyond an ability to comprehend solutions to recent exam questions, for the subject material is broader than what is sampled by any single exam.

The Qualifier Committee will report its final decision to the Associate Head for Graduate Studies and the student's advisor. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs will notify the student in writing of the decision reached by the Qualifier Committee. This process will be followed until the student passes the Qualifier or is dismissed from the program.

### **Preliminary Examination**

The Preliminary Examinations are administered twice a year on the Thursday before classes begin for the Spring semester and first Summer term of each year. All PhD students are required to pass one written field preliminary exam and one oral preliminary exam. Students normally take the departmental field preliminary examination the first time it is offered after they have completed the required field courses. Normally, this will be the Thursday before the summer term of the second year of study for PhD students and the Thursday before Summer term of the third year for straight-through PhD students. The Preliminary Examination must be taken no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan. However, students are not eligible to take the Preliminary Examination until they have passed the Agricultural Economics Qualifier Exam. Students must also have cumulative and degree plan GPRs of at least 3.0 and an approved degree plan on file to take the Preliminary Examination. The oral preliminary exam will be administered after the student has passed the written field preliminary exam.

Students must pass both the written field exam and the oral exam to pass the Preliminary Examination. A failure in either of these examinations constitutes a failure of the Preliminary Examination. Upon unanimous approval of the student's Advisory Committee and the approval of the Office of Graduate Studies, a student who has failed either or both of these two parts of the Preliminary Examination may be given one re-examination, when adequate time has been given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging from the first examination. The second preliminary examination for students that fail the first time consists of one written field preliminary examination and a preliminary oral examination. The written field preliminary examination can be waived if passed the first time the student took the examination. A failure on the second attempt in either the written or the oral examination constitutes a failure, and the student will not have a third chance to take the Preliminary Examination.

### ***Preliminary Examination Checklist***

The Office of Graduate Studies (OGAPS) requires the student to initiate the "[Preliminary Examination Checklist and Report](#)" prior to taking the Preliminary Exams. It is best to wait until the day before the exam to submit to submit the Preliminary Checklist and Report of the Preliminary Examination through DocuSign as the form may expire after an extended period time after submission of the Checklist and the date of the oral exam. Results of the Oral exam must be received by OGAPS 10 working days after exam date

### ***Written Preliminary Field Examination***

The written preliminary field examination is administered by the Field Prelim Committees. There will be a Field Prelim Committee for each of the two field areas: (1) Markets and Information Economics, and (2) Resource and Environmental Economics. The Field Prelim Committee for ABME students will be their graduate advisory committee. A discussion of the fields and their required courses is provided in the section entitled "Field Areas." A Field Preliminary Examination Committee, appointed by the Department Head from faculty in each of the respective fields, will be responsible for preparing and administering the exam, and for evaluating each student's performance on the field exam.

Results for each student will be reported to the departmental Graduate Office. The departmental Graduate Office will notify in writing both the student and the student's advisor of the results of the exam. Once all exam results have been distributed, copies of the field examination questions will be kept in a file in the Grad Office, as well as being available online.

### ***Objectives, Scope, and Subject Matter***

The Agricultural Economics Field Examinations are designed to test the student's ability to recognize current issues and problems in the selected field of study, and formulate them into an economic analysis framework that can contribute to their efficient solution. The Field Examinations are intended to measure subject matter competency and preparedness of the student to begin independent scholarly dissertation research in his or her chosen field of study.

Questions on the written field prelim exams will require students to apply economic theory and quantitative methods of estimation to issues in the field of (1) Markets and Information Economics, (2) Resource and Environmental Economics, or (3) Agribusiness and Managerial Economics (ABME students). The exam will also include relevant core course material that can be used to answer integrative questions. Core courses include AGEC 635 Consumer Demand Analysis for Food and Agricultural Products, and AGEC 636 Agribusiness Markets and Applied Welfare Analysis along with quantitative applications to the core material based on AGEC 641, 642, 643, 661, 662 and their prerequisites.

Markets and Information Economics: The Ph.D. Field Examination in Markets and Information Economics will emphasize material introduced by the Fundamentals (AGEC 672) and Frontiers (AGEC 676) courses but background information derived from other coursework and readings will be useful. This includes survey material such as the topics covered in the texts *The Theory of Incentives: The Principal-Agent Model* (by Jean-Jacques Laffont and David Martimort, 1st edition, Princeton University Press) and *Advanced Industrial Economics* (by Stephen Martin, 2nd edition, Blackwell Publishers) and material from the core courses (particularly econometrics, competitive models of the firm, and game theory). The exam's goal is to assess the student's integrative capacity to address markets and information economics issues with appropriate interpretations, concepts, tools, and policies.

Resource and Environmental Economics: The Ph.D. Field Examination in Resource and Environmental Economics (R&EE) will emphasize material introduced by the Fundamentals (AGEC 673) and Frontiers (AGEC 677) courses, but background information derived from other preparations will be useful. This includes survey R&EE material (such as the topics covered in the AGEC 604 textbook), microeconomics, and material from the core courses (particularly welfare economics), econometrics, and static and dynamic optimization. The exam's goal is to assess the students' integrative capacity to address R&EE issues with appropriate interpretations, concepts, tools, and policies.

Agribusiness and Managerial Economics: The PhD Field Examination in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics (ABME students) will emphasize material introduced by the Fundamentals (AGEC 671) and Frontiers (AGEC 695) in Agribusiness and Managerial Economics, and Doctoral Seminars taught in the Business School for each student's focus area in Agribusiness. The exam's goal is to assess the student's integrative capacity to address issues in Agribusiness with appropriate interpretations, concepts, tools and policies. It is expected that each ABME student will specialize in one of the following: finance, Management, Marketing, or Supply Chain Management. It is also expected that students will be able to integrate the concepts, tools, and quantitative methods taught in the AGEC Department with the concepts, tools and quantitative methods taught in the Business School to address problems in Agribusiness. Currently, the written and oral prelim committee for each ABME student will be their graduate advisory committee.

If you would like access to past Field Preliminary exams online, please contact the Grad Office.

### ***Preliminary Oral Examination***

Once students have passed the written field preliminary examination, they must take an oral preliminary examination administered by the Advisory Committee, as on record with the Office of Graduate Studies. Through the preliminary examination, the student's Advisory Committee should satisfy itself that the student has demonstrated the following qualifications:

- a. a mastery of the subject matter of all fields within the student's core and specialty areas
- b. an adequate knowledge of the literature in these fields and an ability to carry out bibliographical research

If the Advisory Committee Chair wishes, he/she may invite members of the written field prelim committee to attend the oral prelim as a non-voting participant.

The oral prelim will include a presentation of a preliminary draft of the student's dissertation proposal, which must be written and submitted to the Advisory Committee two weeks prior to the oral exam. It is not the intent of the oral preliminary committee to sign off on the dissertation proposal during the exam. It is expected that the student has prepared a draft of the proposal and can justify the literature review and methodology. It is expected that the student will present the proposal at the beginning of the exam. Many oral prelim committees use the presentation of the proposal by the student to ask questions that can help them determine criteria "a" and "b" above. It also is a time for the committee to challenge the proposal and provide ideas and suggestions to improve the research effort. It is after the oral prelim that the student finishes the proposal and submits it to the advisory committee for approval.

It is up to the advisory committee to implement the oral prelim as they believe is appropriate. The oral

prelim is not limited to questions about the proposal but can address questions and responses from the written prelim and qualifier exams as well as any questions subject to the rules above.

The oral exam must be completed before the administration of the next written field prelim exam. If a student fails the oral exam, he/she must retake the oral exam within six months of the first failure.

The Office of Graduate Studies (OGAPS) requires the student to initiate the “[Preliminary Examination Checklist and Report](#)” prior to taking the Preliminary Exams. It is best to wait until the day before the exam to submit to submit the Preliminary Checklist and Report of the Preliminary Examination through DocuSign as the form may expire after an extended period time after submission of the Checklist and the date of the oral exam. Results of the Oral exam must be received by OGAPS 10 working days after exam date

### ***Petitions for Exceptions to Preliminary Exam Policies***

Students who wish to deviate from university preliminary examination policy must file a petition with the Office of Graduate Studies (for example, for permission to take a preliminary examination off-campus). A “Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to University Requirements” filed electronically through the [Degree Plan Submission System \(OGSDPSS\)](#). All members of the student’s Advisory Committee must approve this petition. A copy of all petitions will be filed by the student with the departmental Graduate Office.

### **Selection and Role of Qualifying and Written Preliminary Examination Committees**

The Department Head in conjunction with the Associate Head for Graduate Programs selects faculty members to serve on committees for the Qualifier Exam and the Field Preliminary Exams. These committees are announced near the start of the academic year.

The chair of each committee will be given the names of those students who indicate their intention to take the next examination. It is the responsibility of the chair to: (1) meet with the students to answer any procedural questions they have, (2) write the examination with the input of the other committee members and other faculty and submit it to the departmental Graduate Office two days before the exam, (3) administer a 4-hour examination on the announced date, (4) submit the student’s original examination answers to the departmental Graduate Office immediately after the completion of the exam, (5) Coordinate the grading of the examination within the one-week period following the administration of the exam, and (6) report the results of the examination to the Associate Head for Graduate Programs.

### **Role of the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)**

The Department’s Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC) will review all policies and procedures related to the departmental graduate program, including examinations. This Committee is appointed by the Department Head and advises the Head on matters relating to graduate program policy this request or the request of the graduate faculty. GAC reports regularly to the faculty on matters pertaining to graduate program policy and operations. Policy and procedural issue changes are recommended to the Department Head for his consideration.

If a student desires to deviate from the department’s policies with respect to the Qualifier Examination, a “[Petition for Waivers or Exceptions to Departmental Requirements](#)” must be filed with GAC. This petition must include a statement of the nature of the student’s request, underlying reasons, and if the student has an Advisory Committee their signatures are required. GAC will review the petition, and the student will be notified in writing of the decision reached.

### **Final Examination**

The final exam is an oral defense of the dissertation. The student’s Advisory Committee Chair requests permission at least two weeks in advance of the time scheduled for the oral defense. The request is made to

the Office of Graduate Studies through the Associate Head for Graduate Programs with The official [“Request and Announcement of the Final Examination”](#) form.

## COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### Normal Progress Guidelines

#### *MS & MAB Students*

- ◆ Maintain an overall 3.0 GPR.
- ◆ Maintain a 3.0 GPR for courses on degree plan filed with the Office of Graduate Studies.
- ◆ Complete all degree requirements within 16 months of entering the program.

#### *PhD Students*

- ◆ Maintain an overall 3.0 GPR.
- ◆ Maintain a 3.0 GPR for courses on degree plan filed with the Office of Graduate Studies.
- ◆ Pass the Qualifier Exam by the end of the first year.
- ◆ Pass the written field Preliminary Examination by the end of the second year.
- ◆ Pass the oral Preliminary Examination by the end of the first semester of the third year.
- ◆ Complete all degree requirements within 40 months of entering the program.

All time schedules assume: (1) students pursue their graduate studies on a full-time and uninterrupted basis, (2) Students enter the program having met all prerequisites, (3) the student begins the program in the fall semester, (4) all required courses are available on schedule, and (5) PhD students have already obtained an MS degree. When any of the second actions do not hold, the student should work with her/his major professor to propose adjustments.

As students complete their formal coursework and are proceeding with their thesis or dissertation research (AGEC 691) or their Professional Study paper (AGEC 693), it is a good time to make sure they are “on track” toward meeting all of the requirements for their degree. Below is a summary of some of the things they should be aware of during their last year at TAMU.

### Application for Degree

One of the many things students must do during their last semester as a graduate student is to apply for their degree. This must be done at the beginning of the semester or 60 days prior to the end of the summer term in which they expect to graduate. The application must be made online at it can be accessed through the [Howdy Portal](#).

### Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

All MS-thesis option and PhD students must prepare a [thesis or dissertation proposal](#) that outlines their proposed research in reasonable detail. This proposal should be as succinct as possible and must be approved by the student’s entire Advisory Committee by signing the required cover page. In addition, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs will review the proposal and must sign the cover page. Please allow one week for this review, prior to the submission deadline. The cover page that must accompany the proposal This proposal must be filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 14 weeks prior to submission of the “Request and Announcement of the Final Examination” form.

### Preparing the Thesis/Dissertation

Students should consult the “Thesis Manual” when they begin preparing their thesis or dissertation.

Knowledge of the University's requirements can eliminate problems at a later date with the Thesis Clerk's Office. The *Thesis Manual* can be downloaded from the [OGAPS website](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) and provides detailed instruction on formatting the thesis/dissertation to meet university requirements. All MS non-thesis papers, MS thesis and Ph.D. dissertations will be **required** to follow the format of the **AJAE** in terms of headings, tables, figures, equations, references, etc. A copy of an AJAE article will be provided by the graduate office as a format to follow along with the following web site references. If a website is referenced, the date the website was accessed must also be reported. Any student / committee wishing to deviate from this format can petition GAC to be allowed to deviate from the AJAE format. The student must provide a good reason(s) for deviating from this format.

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

[http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/ajae/for\\_authors/general.html](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/ajae/for_authors/general.html)

The Department has copies of past theses and dissertations completed by agricultural economics students in storage in the Learning Center. All recent theses and dissertations are available through Evans Library as electronic versions. Frequently, a review of recently completed theses or dissertations can answer many questions students might have with regard to style, length, etc. A "rough draft" conference with the Thesis Clerk is also helpful in eliminating last minute changes.

### **Depositing Thesis/Dissertation with Clerk**

After making any final changes to the thesis or dissertation indicated at the final oral examination, the student is required submit their dissertation or thesis electronically (as a pdf file) with the [Thesis Office](#). The Thesis Clerk's Office checks all theses and dissertations for style, typos, completeness of references, adherence to formatting requirements, etc. The student will not be approved for graduation until all changes recommended by the Thesis Clerk's Office have been made.

### **Final Oral Examination**

The Advisory Committee will conduct an oral examination of each MS or PhD student after all requirements for the degree have been completed. The student's Advisory Committee Chair must establish the examination date and notify the Office of Graduate Studies in accordance with University requirements. This includes requesting permission to administer the final exam at least two weeks prior to the examination. The official "[Request and Announcement of the Final Examination](#)" form is initiated by the student through DocuSign. Additional requirements are given in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

All MS-thesis option and PhD students are expected to defend their thesis or dissertation in this examination, which may cover course work as well. An abstract of the thesis or dissertation not to exceed 350 words should be circulated to the Department's Graduate Faculty prior to the examination, with an invitation to attend the presentation.

It is possible for Master of Science-thesis students to waive the final oral examination if their GPR is 3.5 or higher. Approval of the student's Advisory Committee, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, and the Office of Graduate Studies is required. Master of Agribusiness students also may waive a final oral examination, provided they successfully complete the cornerstone courses (AGEC 629 and 630) of their program.

### **Timing of Final Oral Examinations**

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies designates final dates each semester and during the summer for PhD and MS students to: (1) apply for graduation, (2) schedule final oral defense examinations, and (3) submit the final version of their dissertation or thesis to the Thesis Clerk. This calendar can be found on the [OGAPS website](#). Agricultural Economics Department policy calls for students to provide their Chair and Committee with final copies (in a format consistent with the Thesis Clerk's requirements) at least two weeks prior to the defense date. However, students are advised to schedule the defense earlier than the final

date set by the OGAPSS to allow ample time for all of the following to occur prior to the final date the dissertation/thesis is due in the Thesis Clerk's Office:

1. Students should expect to be required to make some corrections following the defense (1-2 weeks is a reasonable expectation for this activity).
2. Student's Chair and in some instances, one or more individual Committee members, will want to review part or all of the revised dissertation/thesis following corrections—when all concerns have been resolved, the Chair and Committee will sign the dissertation/thesis approval page (1-2 weeks is a reasonable expectation).
3. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs reviews and then forwards the dissertation/thesis approval page to the Department Head for signature following completion of steps 1 and 2 (allow another 1-2 weeks for this review).



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Graduate Assistantships

### *Selection Process*

A limited number of departmental assistantships and research assistantships are awarded to graduate students on a competitive basis. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs and the departmental Administrative Team are charged with the responsibility of making all departmental assistantship offers based on merit. The complete application package for each student will be used in determining who will be awarded graduate assistantships. Further, the student's Statement of Purpose describing his/her interests and the objectives of his/her educational program and professional career is important in the evaluation process. The number of offers made is contingent upon the faculty's need for research assistants and the Department's budget.

Individual faculty members may also make assistantship offers from Extension funds or from extramural grant and contract funds. The maximum term for such offers is the duration of the agreement or the grant or contract period and implies no financial commitment from the Department of Agricultural Economics and no assurance of funding beyond the period stated in the offer letter.

### *Benefits and Requirements*

The Department of Agricultural Economics has adopted a four-tiered pay scale for graduate assistants. These rates will be assigned based on the qualifications of the students as determined by a review of application materials, performance reviews, etc. The four levels of assistantship will be Fellowship+, Basic, Standard, and Merit. The rates are as follows:

<i>Degree Level</i>	<i>Fellowship+</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Merit</i>
Master's	\$7,600/yr	\$1,050	\$1,200	\$1600
PhD	\$7,600/yr	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000

Graduate students receiving a half-time graduate assistantship are required to work 20 hours per week in carrying out the functions identified by their assistantship supervisor. Graduate students cannot hold more than one assistantship (GAT, GANT, GAR), nor work as an employee of the State of Texas while holding an assistantship. Graduate assistants are eligible for official University holidays (typically 7-8 days at Christmas, 2-3 days during Spring Break, July 4, and 2 days at Thanksgiving). Graduate assistants desiring to be absent from their duties for longer periods must have the approval of their supervisor and must request leave-without-pay status from the Associate Head for Graduate Programs.

Students must be registered full-time at least two weeks before the start of their assistantship to ensure timely payment of their stipend. Moreover, students must complete payroll forms with the Ag Econ Business Office (AGLS Room 314) by that time. Each semester, students assigned as TAs are required to attend the Teaching Assistant Training and Evaluation Program (TATEP) conducted by the Center for Teaching Enhancement, and a Departmental Graduate Assistant Training Workshop. Also, students must complete orientation with the Ag Program Human Resources Office prior to beginning their assistantship appointment.

Students awarded a half-time graduate assistantship on a competitive basis will have their non-resident tuition waived and are eligible to participate in the TAMU group insurance program. The student's spouse may also be exempt from non-resident tuition. The non-resident tuition waiver must be entered by the departmental Graduate Office each semester. If you are employed outside the Department of Agricultural Economics as a graduate assistant, you must complete an [out-of-state tuition waiver request form](#).

As a holder of a half-time assistantship appointment, students must be registered full-time, which is a minimum of 9 credit hours in the Fall and Spring semester, and 6 credit hours during the summer term. Student's course selection should not interfere with their work schedule as prescribed by their supervisor.

Normal duration of combined fellowship and departmental assistantship support is 16 months for Master of Science (thesis or non-thesis), and Master of Agribusiness students, 40 months for PhD students with Master's degrees, and 52 months for straight-through PhD students. Extension of these limits will be considered only in exceptional circumstances by written request to the Associate Head for Graduate Programs at least one semester in advance and is dependent both on performance and on availability of funds. Clear justification must be provided by the student and endorsed by the student's Advisory Committee Chair.

### ***Initial Assignment to Supervisor(s)***

All students on graduate assistantships with classroom responsibilities are assigned to faculty by the Associate Head for Graduate Programs in consultation with the Administrative Team. Priority is established by the academic rank of the faculty member (priority is given to junior faculty) and other resources available to the faculty member. Course enrollment, the faculty member's teaching load, number and nature of laboratory and homework assignments and exams, and the extent of required student computer use are explicitly considered in prioritizing plans for assignment of graduate teaching assistants. Graduate assistants are assigned in a manner consistent with the objectives of their funding sources. For example, plans for use of Agrilife Research funded graduate research assistants must support completion of Agrilife Research projects. Individual student assignments are, to the extent possible, made by mutual agreement of the faculty member and the graduate assistant.

### ***Work Performance***

The student's assistantship supervisor will be asked by the Associate Head for Graduate Programs to periodically evaluate the assistant's performance (typically at the end of each semester). The purpose of this evaluation is to assure that the Department's needs are being met and that the assistant-supervisor relationship is working satisfactorily. A completed copy will be retained in the student's file.

### ***Grounds for Losing Assistantship***

Students holding a graduate assistantship are subject to losing their assistantship when: (1) their cumulative or degree plan grade point ratio falls below a 3.0 average, (2) they have failed to file an acceptable degree plan by the deadline, (3) they have failed to complete the Qualifier Examination and/or Preliminary Examination as required by Department policy, (4) they have failed to adequately perform their assistantship duties, or (5) they have been involved in scholastic dishonesty.

Students whose cumulative GPR or GPR for courses listed on the degree plan falls below 3.0 will have their assistantships immediately discontinued.

All Master's students must file an acceptable degree plan before registration for the semester following successful completion of 18 credit hours to qualify for continued assistantship funding. PhD students must file an acceptable degree plan before registration for the semester following successful completion of 27 credit hours to qualify for continued assistantship funding. Straight-through PhD students must file an acceptable degree plan before registration for the semester following successful completion of 36 credit hours to qualify for continued assistantship funding.

Students on departmental funding must take the Qualifier within one year after PhD prerequisites are completed (see section on Prerequisites). Normally, this will be in May of the first year of study for PhD students and May of the second year for straight-through PhD students. Students with departmental funding who fail the Qualifier must retake the exam the next time it is offered. Any student on departmental funding who does not take the Qualifier as specified above will lose his/her funding at the end of the term in which this rule is violated.

Students on departmental funding must take the departmental field preliminary examination within two years after PhD prerequisites are completed (see section on Prerequisites). Normally, this will be in May of the second year of study for PhD students and May of the third year for straight-through PhD students. If a student on departmental funding has failed the written field exam, he/she must retake the exam the next time it is offered. Any student on departmental funding that does not take the prelims as specified above will lose his/her funding at the end of the term in which this rule is violated.

Termination of a PhD student's assistantship is automatic upon: (1) second failure of the Qualifier Examination, or (2) second failure of any portion of the preliminary exams (written or oral). In both cases, the assistantship will be terminated at the end of the semester or summer session during which the second failure was reported.

A student's assistantship also will not be renewed if the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, in consultation with the supervising instructor(s), concludes that the student's poor performance does not merit continuance of the assistantship. Protests stemming from termination of an assistantship will be addressed through formal Departmental grievance procedures.

### ***Reinstatement of Assistantship***

A student, who has lost his/her assistantship as a result of unsatisfactory grades, becomes eligible again for assistantship funding when he/she raises his/her cumulative and degree plan GPR to 3.0 or higher. Students whose funding has been terminated for failure to meet requirements for taking the Qualifier or Prelims will not be eligible to be considered for reappointment to departmental funding until the required exam has been passed.

Should students lose their assistantship as a result of poor work performance, they can consider hourly wage employment with a faculty member in the Department. After six months of satisfactory wage employment, the student's work supervisor can recommend that the student be reconsidered for assistantship.

Should students lose their assistantship for any other reason, they may petition the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC) for possible reinstatement. After six months, a student may become eligible again for assistantship funding. **Renewal of a student's assistantship is not guaranteed but rather is subject both to the same competitive process under which it was initially offered and to funding availability.**

### ***Participation in Developing Grant and Contract Proposals***

To provide incentives for graduate students to gain both more control in their dissertation/thesis topics and potentially higher remuneration, graduate students are encouraged to become involved with faculty in grant and contract proposal writing. Graduate students who assist in writing grant/contract proposals, after joint consideration with the major professor, shall include their full salaries and tuition and fees in the proposal budget. Such salaries may exceed normal graduate assistantship salaries by a maximum of 25 percent. Participating students whose proposals are funded must document their involvement in the proposal writing through initiation of the proposal, developing a separate literature review, writing a separate paper on the topic, participating in the actual solicitation of funds with the granting institution, or other such actions that represent a substantive contribution to the proposal on the part of the student. The documentation must be

verified by the major professor and project leader and submitted to the Associate Head for Graduate Programs when the proposal is submitted for funding. The Associate Head for Graduate Programs determines whether the student's participation is sufficient to warrant remuneration above the normal assistantship rate if the grant or contract is funded.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I assist my supervisor during finals week?

A. You are paid to work 20 hours per week. If your duties require work during finals week, and they normally do if you have teaching assistantship responsibilities, you are expected to work during that time. If your duties do not require work that week, your supervisor may authorize you to make up the work before or after finals.

Q. Do I have to work on student holidays?

A. Your work schedule is to be arranged with your supervisor. You are required, however, to work 20 hours per week except during official University holidays.

Q. Can I lose my assistantship if I receive a poor work performance evaluation from my supervisor?

A. A poor work performance evaluation will suggest the need for a meeting between you, your supervisor, your major advisor where applicable, and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs. Every attempt will be made to understand and resolve the problems contributing to a poor performance rating. Loss of an assistantship will occur if the situation cannot be resolved over a reasonable length of time and dismissal is warranted.

Q. What happens if I relinquish my assistantship but plan to apply for an assistantship at a later point in time?

A. Your name will be re-entered into the "pool" of assistantship applicants and you will most likely be awarded an assistantship if funding permits. Remember assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis, so there is an element of risk in relinquishing your assistantship.

Q. Are there other ways I can earn money in the Department if I do not receive a Departmental assistantship?

A. Yes. Students can be employed as graduate assistants by individual faculty members who have Extension, grant, or contract funds. A number of students also earn money as hourly wage employees in the Department. For further information on potential employment in the Department, contact individual faculty, the Associate Head for Graduate Programs, or the Department Head's Office (AGLS Room 309).

Q. How do I resign from my assistantship?

A. Inform your supervisor and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs in writing as soon as you know that you will be resigning. Please give at least two weeks' notice of the exact date of resignation so that necessary arrangements can be made with the Department's Business Office.

Q. I have been awarded a Departmental assistantship. If part of the assistantship is funded by individual faculty members who have Extension, grant, or contract funds, can the Departmental assistantship be extended.

A. No. The months you were funded by an individual faculty member will be counted as part of your Departmental assistantship (a total of 16 months for MS, 40 months for PhD, and 52 months for Straight-through PhD).

## **Fellowship and Scholarship Opportunities**

There are a number of fellowship and scholarship opportunities that are available to graduate students. The following discussion summarizes some of the major opportunities currently available. Most provide a non-resident tuition waiver. Check with the Department Graduate Office and Office of Graduate Studies for details. Students holding fellowships should check the [Graduate Catalog](#) to determine registration requirements.

### ***Regents' Graduate Fellowships***

These highly competitive awards are given to new graduate or professional students with exceptional credentials. The awards are for one year with an option for renewal by the College. Fellowship nominations are made by the Department to the College or by the intercollegiate faculties to the Office of Graduate Studies. The size of stipends varies depending on College guidelines.

### ***Graduate Merit Fellowships***

These prestigious fellowships are awarded through a University-wide competition. The fellowships are designed to encourage high-quality applicants to enroll for the first time in graduate programs at Texas A&M University. Nominations are made by the Department to the College. These awards are for one year.

### ***National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships***

The NSF awards these fellowships and the money is administered through the Office of Graduate Studies. Applications can be obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies during September and October and sent directly to the NSF.

### ***Willie May Harris Charitable Trust Graduate Fellowship***

The Willie May Harris Fellowship is awarded to first time graduate students who are citizens of the United States. The award is for a one-year term. Nominations are made by the Department to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

### ***Heep Award for Excellence in Graduate Study***

The Heep Award was created to enhance recruitment of the best prospective Ph.D. students. This is a three-year award made to incoming Ph.D. students, and can be given in conjunction with an assistantship in the department. Nominations are made by the Department to the Office of Graduate Studies.

### ***Tom Slick Fellowship***

The Tom Slick Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences provides support for dissertation research of exceptional PhD students regardless of their nationality. The topic of the research conducted by the student should be relevant to Texas agriculture. Recipients are selected twice yearly with fellowships beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>. Tenure is for no more than 12 months. Fellows are selected by a committee appointed by the Dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Fellows must have completed all preliminary exams and a dissertation proposal prior to the beginning of the fellowship.

### ***Robert G. Cherry Fellowship***

The student receiving this fellowship must be enrolled as a PhD or a Master of Science student in Agricultural Economics. The maximum award is \$3,000 per year for three years. It is available to a student awarded a half-time assistantship by the Department. Preference is given to students who are Texas residents, employees of the Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) with demonstrated potential for advancement, or have an interest in employment with TCE and plan to pursue dissertation or thesis research on an economic problem relevant to Texas agriculture, agribusiness, or related food and fiber concerns.

### ***Tyrus Timm Fellowship***

The student receiving this fellowship must be enrolled as a Master's student in Agricultural Economics. The recipient must also be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, have a strong academic record and a clear conduct record. The stipend paid by this fellowship varies with the income available from the endowment. The recipient's name is also added to the plaque displayed in the Department.

### ***Rod Ziemer Scholarship***

The Rod Ziemer Scholarship is a travel scholarship for graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Science who are presenting papers at the annual AAEA meetings. Requests for applications will be announced and distributed through the Department. This award is based on need, and may not be awarded every year.

### ***Hopkin Scholarship***

The Hopkin Scholarship is awarded through the Department of Agricultural Economics to assist in recruitment of outstanding graduate students specializing in Agricultural Finance. Requests for applications will be announced and distributed through the Department. This scholarship may not be awarded every year.

### ***Presentation and Research Grants (Minifellowships)***

The Graduate Student Research and Presentation Grant Program is supported by funds from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Associate Provost of Former Students. Primarily, the program supports graduate student research. Secondly, it helps defray travel expenses of students attending professional meetings to present research papers.

Each applicant must have an approved proposal on file, be enrolled for a minimum of 9 semester hours (four semester hours if *in-absentia*) during a regular semester or a 10-week summer session (four of these semester hours must be in 684 Internship, 691 Research, or 693 Professional Study) and must not be a previous recipient of a Graduate Student Presentation and Research Grant.

Your application should clearly indicate the nature of the proposed activities with emphasis on how you will spend the requested funds. The budget should be brief but should list specific items. Funds awarded must be expended within 12 months, or they will revert to the Graduate Student Presentation and Research Grant Program.

The maximum dollar amount awarded is \$400. Further information can be found on [OGAPS website](#).

### ***Other Fellowships***

Externally-funded competitive fellowships frequently are available. These fellowships are often funded by the Water Resources Institute, USDA, or commodity groups. Procedures for obtaining and maintaining these fellowships are the same as for graduate assistantships, unless otherwise stated.

### ***Competitive Scholarships***

The Department may offer a limited number of competitive scholarships based on merit and financial need. Recipients of such scholarships are eligible for a waiver of non-resident tuition. Requests for applications will be announced and distributed through the Department.

## Grounds for Losing Fellowships

Fellowship holders are expected to maintain at least the same academic performance levels and progress as assistantship holders. Higher levels may be stated in the letter of offer. A GPR of at least 3.2 and adequate progress toward the degree are minimum requirements. Students not meeting these standards are subject to losing their fellowships. The termination procedures are the same as for assistantships.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Who do I contact to learn more about the fellowship and scholarship opportunities available to Master's and PhD students?
- A. The Department's Graduate Office can provide you with additional information.
- Q. Who selects the recipients of the Departmental fellowships and scholarships?
- A. A Departmental Graduate Scholarship Committee makes the decisions on who receives Departmental Graduate Scholarships. The Chair of GAC is the Chair of the Departmental Graduate Scholarship Committee and the Associate Head for Graduate Programs serves as an *ex officio* member.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students must meet some additional requirements.

### English Language Requirements

International graduate students who will be serving as Teaching Assistants must complete English Language Certification at Texas A&M or show that they have completed an equivalent program at another U.S. institution. All other international students may demonstrate their abilities in English through English Language Proficiency Certification or Verification.

Texas A&M University requires students from countries where English is not the primary language to demonstrate the ability to speak, write, and understand the English language. The English proficiency requirements are independent of admission requirements. Graduate students may meet this requirement in one of the following ways:

- (1) English Language Proficiency Verification through official TOEFL score of 550 or higher (paper-based), 213 or higher (computer-based), or 80 (internet-based) taken within the last two years, GRE verbal score 146 or higher taken within the last five years, or GMAT verbal score 22 or higher taken within the last five years. Texas A&M requires an official copy of your test scores.
- (2) English Language Proficiency Certification may be achieved by taking the English Language Proficiency Examination (ELPE). In order to achieve English Language Proficiency Certification through the ELPE, a student must score at least 80 on the oral portion of the ELPE
- (3) English Language Proficiency verification may be achieved by receiving a two-year master's degree or a Baccalaureate degree following four years of study at an accredited U.S. institution.

### Visa Status

The International Student Services (ISS) office is the best source of information on matters pertaining to an international student's visa status, as well as other questions pertaining to employment of international students. ISS is located at 110 Pavilion, phone number: 979-845-1824, and email: [iss@tamu.edu](mailto:iss@tamu.edu).

### Employment

International students must be cleared through EEC prior to being employed by the Department. For more information, go to the Business Office in Blocker 334.

## **Enrollment**

International students are required to enroll full-time, i.e. a minimum of 9 hours in Fall and Spring semesters. If they have a graduate assistantship, they must maintain full-time enrollment during the Summer term as well (6 credit hours). Additionally, international students must be enrolled full-time in their initial or final semester, even if it falls in the summer.

## **FFORMS FOUND ON THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES WEBSITE**

The following **official** forms are available only at the [Office of Graduate and Professional Studies website](#) .

1. [Letter of Intent](#)
2. [Request and Announcement of the Final Examination](#)
3. [Proposal Cover Page for Thesis, Dissertation, or Record of Study](#)
4. [Out-of-State \(Non-Resident\) Tuition Waiver for student employed outside the Department](#)