

HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES

in

Foreword

This handbook is designed to serve as a reference for graduate students and graduate applicants, providing information on degree requirements, regulations, and departmental policies that apply to graduate study in Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University. This handbook supplements information provided in the LSU General Catalog. Graduate students assume full responsibility for knowledge of rules and regulations of both the Graduate School and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (AgEcon). Relevant information is available on the respective websites

HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES in AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Introduction

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University offers graduate studies conducted under the direction of departmental Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station scientists who are actively engaged in research (Appendix A). Faculty research areas include, but are not limited to, international trade, agricultural business, agricultural policy, behavioral/experimental economics, marketing, econometrics, operations research, natural resource and environmental economics, farm management, finance, community and rural development, and production economics.

The graduate program in the Department is designed to enhance the intellectual growth of students through the development of conceptual and analytical skills necessary for achieving their career objectives. The faculty is devoted to helping graduate students achieve academic, intellectual, personal, and career excellence by offering graduate programs leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The M.S. program offers three areas of study: Agribusiness Management, Natural Resource and Environmental Policy, and Agricultural Economics. The thesis (research) and non-thesis options are available for all areas of study in the M.S. Program.

II. Admissions

The Department welcomes and supports all applicants, domestic and international, to our M.S. and Ph.D. programs. LSU assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status. Admission to graduate study is a two-fold process. The Graduate School's Admissions office determines eligibility for admission to LSU. The department determines admissibility to AgEcon M.S. and Ph.D. degree program. Final admission to the

university is subject to approval by the Graduate School. The LSU Graduate School manages the admissions process, and a non-refundable application fee must accompany the online application. Applications for fall semester admission should be completed before the

entering graduate students and assists students in forming the SGC from members of the graduate early in their graduate programs. Whenever possible, committee formation and committee chair selection match student and faculty research interests. All M.S. students are encouraged to form their committees,

Students in the Ph.D. program may apply for a dual major only after successful completion of the qualifying examination. Enrollment in the dual major must start no later than the end of their second year.

Minors in Agricultural Economics

Students wishing to obtain an agricultural economics minor are expected to attain a minimum level of competence in the field. Specific hour requirements will be partially based on the student's background at the undergraduate or graduate level. The following are general requirements for graduate minors.

At the M.S. level, a minor must include at least 9 hours of approved courses at the 4000 level and above (graduate plus undergraduate) taken in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. No fewer than 6 hours must be taken as a graduate student. For example, students with no previous course work in agricultural economics must take 9 hours as a graduate student. Students with 3 or more hours of previous course work in agricultural economics must take 6 hours as a graduate student. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for the minor courses.

At the Ph.D. level, a minor must include a minimum of 15 hours of approved course work at the 4000 level and above (graduate plus undergraduate) taken in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. No fewer than 6 hours must be taken at the Ph.D. level and 3 of these ~~six~~ 6 hours must be at the 7000 level.

(3) Admission on either a probationary or regular basis will depend on the level of performance above the minimum described in (2) above, GRE scores, and acceptance by the Graduate School.

Progress of Graduate Students

Each graduate student must submit reports documenting progress in the graduate program (Appendix B). The reports are submitted through the student's SGC Chair each year by May 31. The student's input includes a summary of graduate school requirements met to date, details of courses taken, progress made toward completing the thesis or dissertation, and a report on research accomplishments.

Evaluation of student progress and suggestions for future activities will be made by the SGC Chair. The student's report will be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies no later than June 15th and will be used in

students on the thesis option focuses on the thesis project. Students in the non-thesis option must also satisfactorily complete a final oral defense which is broader in scope.

Students Planning to Pursue a Ph.D. upon Completion of the M.S. Degree

Master'

DGC, and Department Head must approve the equivalent course grade and qualifying examination result.

An oral general defense is given after successfully completing the written general exam. The

Ph.D. Course Requirements

Table 6 shows requirements and the general structure of coursework in the Ph.D. program. The number of credit hours required as shown is beyond the B.S. level. Students normally are expected to exceed these minimum requirements. Approved electives may be used to develop a specialization or to gain breadth in the Ph.D. program. Students entering the program with deficiencies in their background training may be required to take additional courses.

General Examination

The written Departmental Ph.D. General Examination consists of questions administered by the Departmental General Examination Committee upon completion of core coursework. Students will have two opportunities to pass this exam. Failure to pass the written portion of the General Examination on the second attempt will terminate the student's program. The general examination will consist of questions from core economic areas such as production, consumption, marketing, trade, development, resource, or environmental economics, as well as from general agricultural economics and/or econometrics and other research methods. The written general examination will be administered over two days. The examination will consist of four questions each day; one of which will be general in nature while the others will be from three of the core areas. Students will be required to answer three of the four questions each day. The written general examination will be offered in June of each year. For students who fail the written general examination, they will be allowed to re-take the written general examination once in August of that same year. Students who have not passed the written general examination before the fall semester starts (August of that same year) will not be permitted to continue in the Ph.D. program.

General Defense

Table 1. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Agricultural Economics Study Area.

<u>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</u>		<u>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis	3	ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7103: Advanced Statistical Methods in Ag	3	AGEC 7103: Advanced Statistical Methods in Ag	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
Total	18	Total	18
<i>Minimum Requirements</i>			
Required Courses	18		
Approved AGECE Electives	9		
Thesis Research Hours	6		
<i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	33		

Table 2. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Study Area.

<u>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</u>		<u>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
ENVS 7047: Environmental Econ and Policy	3	ENVS 7047: Environmental Econ and Policy	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
ECON 4320: Environmental Econ. or ENVS 7041: Environmental Policy Analysis	3	ECON 4320: Environmental Econ. or ENVS 7041: Environmental Policy Analysis	3
Total	18	Total	18
 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>		 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>	
Required Courses	18	Required Courses	18
Approved AGECE Electives	9	Approved AGECE Electives	15
Thesis Research Hours	6	AGECE 7703: Independent Study	3
 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 33	 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 36

Table 3. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Agribusiness Management Study Area.

<u>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</u>		<u>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7700: Agribusiness Internship	3	AGEC 7700: Agribusiness Internship	3
AGEC 7613: Agricultural Trade or AGEC 7203: Advanced Agricultural Marketing Theory	3	AGEC 7613: Agricultural Trade or AGEC 7203:	
Total	18		
 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>			
Required Courses	18		
Approved AGECE Electives	9		
Thesis Research Hours	6		
<i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	33		

Table 4. M.S. ThesisDegree Timetable

Program Item	Deadline	Comments
Orientation		The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.

Table 5. M.S. Non-Thesis Degree Timetable

Program Item	Deadline	Comments
Orientation	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Chair of the Graduate Committee is the temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Major Professor/SGC Chair Assignment	Orientation period – midterm of entering semester.	The SGC Chair becomes the primary academic mentor and GA work supervisor.
Complete Program of Study	By the end of the first semester.	Approved by the SGC, DGC, and Department Head.
Internship (Required for Agricultural Business Study Area)	During or prior to last semester.	Student, in consultation with SGC chair, must make all internship arrangements.

Final Oral Defense(en-US)BD

Table 7. Ph.D. Degree Timetable.

Program Item	
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Appendix B: Graduate Student Progress Report

Student:

Date:

Date Entering Program: M.S. _____ Ph.D. _____

Graduate Student Committee: _____, Major Professor
 _____, _____, _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____

Six Core Courses Completed on: _____ with a GPA of _____ (for Ph.D. only)

Program of Study Approved on: _____

Research Proposal Approved on: _____

Coursework Completed on: _____

General Exam Completed on: _____ (Ph.D. only)

Departmental Seminar given on: _____ **Expected Date of Completion:** _____

Student's Research Accomplishments Since Last Report. Among other accomplishments you wish to note, *include a list of presentations and publications since May 1st* (attach additional pages if necessary). If you have a vita, please attach that as well.

Advisor's Evaluation of Student Performance (please circle the appropriate responses for each item):

Overall quality of work	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Timeliness of task completion	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Focused on assignments	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Takes initiative in assignments	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Makes suggestions for improvements	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Works well with other staff	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory

Please include any activity of work _____

Appendix C. 7000level AGECE Courses

7103 Advanced Statistical Methods in Agriculture (3) Application of advanced statistical tools to problems in agricultural economics; emphasis on the general linear model, including diagnostics, applications, and interpretation.

7113 Agribusiness Research Applications (3) Introduction to and overview of agribusiness research

Appendix D: Agricultural Economics