Agribusiness and Applied Economics

Program and Application Information

Department Chair: Dr. William Nganje
Graduate Coordinator: Dr. David Ripplinger
Department Location: 500 Barry Hall
Department Phone: (701) 231-7441
Department Email: ndsu.agribusiness@ndsu.edu
Department Web Site: www.ag.ndsu.edu/agecon/
Application Deadline: March 1
Degrees Offered: M.S.
Test Requirement: GRE or GMAT
English Proficiency Requirements: TOEFL ibT 79 IELTS 6.5

Program Description

The Agribusiness and Applied Economics Master of Science degree includes areas of specialization in applied economics, agribusiness, and transportation and logistics.

The Applied Economics area emphasizes course work in economic theory, research methods, and quantitative techniques. The option is designed to prepare students for careers in agricultural economics research in private and public sectors and for Ph.D. programs at other institutions.

The Agribusiness specialization is a broad-based program which combines training in agribusiness management, economic analysis, and agricultural sciences. Training may include biotechnology, processing, and food and environmental safety. Students are prepared for a variety of successful careers in agribusiness by fulfilling the requirements for expertise in quantitative methods and developing a rigorous background in economic theory and research.

The Departments of Agribusiness and Applied Economics and Civil Engineering, in conjunction with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, offer an interdisciplinary graduate program in multimodal transportation. The program includes rural and non-metropolitan planning, highway and railroad engineering, freight transportation operations and economics, and agribusiness logistics and distribution. Both thesis and comprehensive study options are available.

Students of all options have complete access to well-equipped research facilities and to faculty supervision time. The department has an excellent placement record with national and international agricultural and business firms, as well as government agencies.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School admission requirements (https://bulletin.ndsu.edu/graduate/admission-information), applicants to the program must have earned a grade of B or higher in intermediate microeconomics and statistics including linear regression, and a grade of C or better in calculus.

Students who do not meet all requirements for admission or have deficiencies in prerequisite course work, but show potential for successful graduate study, may be admitted under a conditional status. Evidence must be provided showing that the applicant's potential is not adequately reflected by his/her record. After meeting the specified standards of performance set by the department, the student, in consultation with the major adviser, may request a change to full graduate standing.

Financial Assistance

The department offers assistantships on a competitive basis. Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) provide monthly stipends plus tuition waivers. Students must pay a minimal activity fee each semester. Assistantships do not begin until the first semester of full graduate standing when courses that apply for the Master of Science degree are taken.

Most assistantships are half-time (20 hours per week) or one-quarter-time (10 hours per week). Students on assistantship perform research or teaching duties in the Department in return for their stipend. Assistantships are typically limited to 16 months.

Granting assistantships depends on academic performance, departmental needs, and availability of assistantships.

Students pursuing a Master of Science in Agribusiness and Applied Economics (thesis option or comprehensive study option) must complete all core courses. Students select elective courses (with approval of the adviser and supervisory committee) to fulfill the remaining Graduate School credit requirements. It is required that students have competence in calculus, multiple regression analysis, and intermediate microeconomics.
# M.S. in Agribusiness and Applied Economics

## Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 701</td>
<td>Research Philosophy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 710</td>
<td>Advanced Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 739</td>
<td>Analytical Methods for Applied Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 741</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGEC 797</td>
<td>Master's Paper</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AGEC 798</td>
<td>Master's Thesis</td>
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## Thesis Option

- Minimum of 16 credits of approved graduate-level course work
- 6 to 10 credits of AGEC 798 (Thesis)
- Minimum of 30 credits of course work and thesis credits

## Comprehensive Study Option

- Minimum of 7 credits of quantitative courses (including ECON 610, ECON 710, AGEC 739, AGEC 711 or other approved quantitative courses)
- Minimum of 21 credits of approved graduate-level course work
- 2 to 4 credits of AGEC 797 (Comprehensive Study)
- Minimum of 30 credits of course work and comprehensive study credits

## Faculty

**Caton, James, Ph.D.**  
George Mason University, 2016  
Research Interests: Entrepreneurship, Agent-based Computational Economics, Market Process Theory, Monetary Economics

**Nganje, William, Ph.D.**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999  
Research Interests: Agricultural Finance, Food Safety Economics

**Erik Hanson, Ph.D.**  
University of Minnesota, 2016  
Research Interests: Agricultural Finance, Farm Management, Marketing and Production Economics

**Robert Hearne, Ph.D.**  
University of Minnesota, 1995  
Research Interests: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

**Jeremy Jackson, Ph.D.**  
Washington University in St. Louis, 2008  
Research Interests: Microeconomics, Political Economy, Public Finance

**Siew Hoon Lim, Ph.D.**  
University of Georgia, 2005  
Research Interests: Production Economics, Transportation, Industrial Organization

**Dragan Miljkovic, Ph.D.**  
University of Illinois, 1996  
Research Interests: Agricultural Prices, International Trade, Agricultural and Food Marketing and Policy

**Frayne Olson, Ph.D.**  
University of Missouri, 2007  
Research Interests: Crop Marketing Strategies, Crop Supply Chain Management, Agricultural Contracting, Agricultural Risk Management

**Timothy Petry, M.S.**  
North Dakota State University, 1973  
Research interests: Livestock Marketing

**David Ripplinger, Ph.D.**  
North Dakota State University, 2011  
Research Interests: Production Economics and Marketing
David Roberts, Ph.D.
Oklahoma State University, 2009
Research Interests: Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, Econometrics, Production Agriculture

David M. Saxowsky, J.D.
The Ohio State University, 1979
Research Interests: Agricultural Law

Saleem Shaik, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska, 1998
Research Interests: Agriculture Policy and Risk Management, Agriculture Production Economics

Anupa Sharma, Ph.D.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2016
Research Interests: Economics, Agriculture Business and Management

Cheryl J. Wachenheim, Ph.D.
Michigan State University, 1994
Research Interests: Agribusiness

Tom Wahl, Ph.D.
Iowa State University, 1989
Research Interests: International Marketing and Trade, Agricultural Trade Policy, Marketing and Price Analysis

William W. Wilson, Ph.D.
University of Manitoba, 1980
Research Interests: Commodity Marketing, Agribusiness, Industrial Organization

Lei Zhang, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Dallas, 2011
Research Interests: Applied Econometrics, Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics, Regional and Urban Economics