Agribusiness and Applied Economics

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 coursework 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.

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 coursework, 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Core Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGEC 701</td>
<td>Research Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 710</td>
<td>Advanced Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AGEC 739</td>
<td>Analytical Methods for Applied Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AGEC 741</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Thesis Option</td>
<td>Minimum of 16 credits numbered 601-689, 691; 700-789, 791; 800-889 and 891</td>
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<td>AGEC 798</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis (6-10 credits)</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Study Option</td>
<td>Minimum of 21 credits numbered: 601-689, 691; 700-789, 791; 800-889 and 891</td>
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<td>AGEC 797</td>
<td>Master’s Paper (2-4 credits)</td>
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<td>Total Credits:</td>
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James Caton, Ph.D.
George Mason University, 2016
Research Interests: Entrepreneurship, Agent-based Computational Economics, Market Process Theory, Monetary Economics

William Nganje, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999
Research Interests: Agriculture, 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