AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS, MS

for the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Department Head: Sean Fox
Director of Graduate Studies: Nick Paulson
Director of Graduate Recruiting and Admissions: Sandy Dall’Erba
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Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 333-1810
Fax: (217) 333-5538
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Program Overview
The ACE M.S. program offers considerable flexibility. Students using
the degree as a foundation for a doctorate emphasize economic theory
and analytical research tools. Students seeking the terminal master’s
degree focus their study on the concepts and analytical techniques
used by analysts and managers in industries, governments, and other
organizations.

Admission
Graduate College requirements apply, including a 3.0 (A = 4.0) GPA for
the last two years of undergraduate coursework and any graduate work
completed. International applicants whose native language is not English
are required to follow the Graduate College’s Minimum Requirements
for Admission. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test scores
are required for all M.S. program applicants. Applicants to the Ph.D.
program are required to provide a sample of their academic writing;
a writing sample is optional for M.S. applicants. Students having an
inadequate background in theory or quantitative methods will be asked to
take additional coursework to prepare for graduate study. Students may
commence study in either semester, but initial enrollment in fall semester
is preferable.

Student Thesis and Dissertation Research
Our students’ research uses economics to address important social and
economic challenges. Thesis and dissertation topics include designing
policies for environmental protection and resource management,
evaluating international efforts to reduce poverty and hunger, and
enhancing the performance of commodity and speculative markets.

Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement,
experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate
experience in this program and is strongly recommended for those
intending to pursue an academic career.

Financial Aid
Graduate fellowships, assistantships, and tuition and fee waivers are
awarded on a competitive basis.

Fellowships. The department offers fellowships from internal resources
and by nominating students for college and campus fellowships.
These fellowships, often combined with assistantship support, provide
monetary stipends and, in most cases, exemptions from tuition and some
student fees. Recipients must register for the equivalent of at least 12
hours of graduate credit in each semester and four hours in an eight-
week summer session. Fellowship holders are encouraged to involve
themselves with research and teaching in the department.

Assistantships. Research and teaching assistantships provide an
opportunity for graduate students to work with faculty. Most research
assistantships are funded by grants and contracts involving the analysis
of contemporary issues. Most assistantships carry waivers of tuition and
some fees.

Tuition and Fee Waivers. Waivers may be awarded. In most cases they
are awarded to students with fellowship support from certain external
programs.

Graduate Degree Programs in Agricultural and Applied
Economics
Agricultural and Applied Economics, MAAE (http://
catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/aces/agricultural-applied-economics-
maae/)
Agricultural and Applied Economics, MS (p. 1)
Agricultural and Applied Economics, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/
graduate/aces/agricultural-applied-economics-phd/)
for the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Students must earn a 3.0 (A = 4.0) GPA for a minimum of 32 graduate
hours of credit. M.S. students entering the ACE graduate program will
be admitted only to the Thesis Option. For the Thesis Option, a thesis
is prepared under the supervision of a faculty advisory committee.
The thesis is defended in a formal oral examination, which usually
coincides with an open departmental seminar, administered by the thesis
committee. The Non-Thesis Option requires advanced coursework in lieu
of a thesis. The Non-Thesis Option is available only to students already
enrolled in the Thesis Option of the ACE M.S. program or in the ACE
Ph.D. program. Application for admission to the Non-Thesis Option is
by petition to the Department after at least two semesters of graduate
coursework have been completed.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s
Graduate Program information for the Master’s degree (http://
ace.illinois.edu/grad/masters/) and the Graduate College Handbook
(http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/gradhandbook/).

Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACE 500</td>
<td>Applied Economic Theory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 592</td>
<td>Special Topics (Microeconomics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 hours in quantitative and research methods from</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>departmental list (these do not count toward the 500 level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>course requirement)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>32</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Other requirements may overlap</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only 2 hours of ACE 566 may count towards the degree</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit: 8 at the 500 level, not including ACE 566, 599 or independent study
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 12
Minimum GPA: 3.0

**Non-Thesis Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 hours selected from the ACE doctoral core sequence, including at least 12 hours in applied economic theory and 8 hours in quantitative methods</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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<td>32</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Other Requirements**

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only 2 hours of ACE 566 may count towards the degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit: 20 at the 500 level, not including ACE 566, 599 or independent study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA: 3.0</td>
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*Information listed in this catalog is current as of 02/2022*