AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS, MS

for the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics

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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/)