AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, & COMMUNICATIONS, MS

for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications (on campus & online)

graduate program coordinator: Eric Morgan
department website: https://alec.illinois.edu/graduate/ms-degree
(college website: https://aces.illinois.edu/
overview of graduate college admissions & requirements: Graduate Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)
overview of college admissions & requirements: https://alec.illinois.edu/graduate/admissions
department office: 174 Bevier Hall, 905 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801
phone: (217) 333-3165
email: aces-alec@illinois.edu (aces-aged@illinois.edu)

Graduate Degree Programs in Agricultural Education
Graduate Major:
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications, MS (p. 1)

The M.S. in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications is a professional degree for training community and organizational developers, professional trainers, Extension agents, communications officers, educational assessment professionals, customer service specialists, and agriculture classroom teachers to address issues as they pertain to teaching and learning in and about food, agriculture, natural resources, and the environment. Students are typically interested in either furthering their career in Extension, agricultural organizations and community agencies, and agricultural classrooms in secondary education. For on-campus students studying full-time, we also work with students interested in gaining licensure for teaching agriculture in Illinois public schools for grades 5-12.

Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications can be pursued as an online degree. Please refer to: https://alec.illinois.edu/graduate/online-ms (https://alec.illinois.edu/graduate/online-ms/) for more information.

Admission

We are looking for highly motivated students with strong academic records. Students with backgrounds in agriculture, education, behavioral or social sciences are especially encouraged to apply. The minimum undergraduate grade-point average for admission is 3.0 (A = 4.0).

Applicants for the online/off-campus program are not required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). International applicants from non-English-speaking countries should meet the minimum requirements for English proficiency established by the Graduate College. To receive full consideration for admission (and financial aid opportunities if you are applying for the full-time, on-campus program), please apply by February 15 for possible admission the following fall semester. The admission deadline for part-time online students is April 15 for the following fall semester.

Each applicant’s undergraduate transcript will be evaluated for completion of general education courses required for licensure by the Illinois State Board of Education. Students with deficiencies may be admitted with the stipulation that these be met before completion of the master’s program.

Financial Aid

We are committed to funding as many of full-time on-campus students who are making timely progress as possible. The duration and amount of our commitment varies. Funding may include fellowships, research assistantships, and/or teaching assistantships. These opportunities typically include stipends and tuition waivers. In some cases, fees are also waived. All applicants are automatically considered for all department funding opportunities; there is no separate application process. Federal and state financial aid is completely separate from the support provided by our department. For information regarding federal and state financial aid, please refer to https://osfa.illinois.edu/.

This degree program can be completed either on campus or online; with or without a thesis, the requirements are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis Option</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required</td>
<td>ALEC 400</td>
<td>Foundations of Agricultural Leadership, Education, &amp; Communications (Foundations and Pathways of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALEC 410</td>
<td>Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (Program Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALEC 505</td>
<td>Science and Art of Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HDFS 590</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods (Advanced Research Methods)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>HDFS 591</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or HDFS 594</td>
<td>Intermed Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALEC 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis requires 11 hours</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGCM 430</td>
<td>Comm in Env Social Movements</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGED 430</td>
<td>Youth Development Programs</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGED 496</td>
<td>Beginning Agriculture Teachers Seminar</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGED 498</td>
<td>Second Year Agriculture Teacher Seminar</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALEC 540</td>
<td>Volunteer Management (Volunteer Management)</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 440</td>
<td>Interpersonal Intelligence for Professional Success</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 460</td>
<td>Critical Approaches to Leadership Practice</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 470</td>
<td>Leading Professional Organizations and Communities</td>
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Information listed in this catalog is current as of 01/2022
LEAD 480  Collaborative Leadership  

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Total Hours 32

### Capstone Option

**Capstone requires 17 hours**

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Total Hours 32

### Other Requirements

**Other requirements and conditions may overlap**

- Minimum Hours Required within the Unit: 5
- Minimum 500-level Hours Required overall: 12
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

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