

**HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES**

**in**

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**

**Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness  
Louisiana State University and A&M College**

**Spring 2026**

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## **Foreword**

This handbook is designed to serve as a reference for graduate students and graduate applicants, providing information on degree requirements, regulations, and departmental policies that apply to graduate study in Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University. This handbook supplements information provided in the LSU General Catalog. Graduate students assume full responsibility for knowledge of rules and regulations of both the Graduate School and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (AgEcon). Relevant information is available on the respective websites (see AgEcon website for current links). In addition, current and aspiring graduate students may also find relevant information from several other LSU units and organizations including (but not limited to) the International Services Office, the Office of Disability Services, the Student Health Center, Residential Life, and the Graduate Students Association.

# HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES in AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## Introduction

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University offers graduate studies conducted under the direction of departmental Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station scientists who are actively engaged in research (Appendix A). Faculty research areas include, but are not limited to, international trade, agricultural business, agricultural policy, behavioral/experimental economics, marketing, econometrics, operations research, natural resource and environmental economics, farm management, finance, community and rural development, and production economics.

The graduate program in the Department is designed to enhance the intellectual growth of students through the development of conceptual and analytical skills necessary for achieving their career objectives. The faculty is devoted to helping graduate students achieve academic, intellectual, personal, and career excellence by offering graduate programs leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). The M.S. program offers three areas of study: Agribusiness Management, Natural Resource and Environmental Policy, and Agricultural Economics. The thesis (research) and non-thesis options are available for all areas of study in the M.S. Program.

## II. Admissions

The Department welcomes and supports all applicants, domestic and international, to our M.S. and Ph.D. programs. LSU assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status. Admission to graduate study is a two-fold process. The Graduate School's Admissions office determines eligibility for admission to LSU. The department determines admissibility to AgEcon M.S. and Ph.D. degree program. Final admission to the

university is subject to approval by the Graduate School. The LSU Graduate School manages the admissions process, and a non-refundable application fee must accompany the online application. Applications for fall semester admission should be completed before the department's January 25 priority deadline. Submission of required material by the priority date helps ensure full consideration for scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships. Applications for fall admission received after the priority date will still be reviewed for admission, but funding may not be available. The department may consider applications for the spring or summer admission on a case-by-case basis.

All applications must be made through the LSU Graduate School, and the online application process can be found on their website.

To be considered for admission, the LSU Graduate School requires applicants to submit the following to their online admissions portal: (1) transcripts indicating a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) or an advanced degree from an accredited college or university by the expected date of entry into the degree program; (2) a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last 60 hours of the previous undergraduate or graduate program; and (3) a current resume/CV with a complete and accurate chronological outline of all previous college-level education.

### International Students

The AgEcon Department, the LSU Graduate School, and the LSU International Services Office provide support for all our international applicants. In addition to admissions requirements above, international applicants may need to satisfy 'degree equivalency' and 'English Language Proficiency' requirements set by the Graduate School. LSU's International Services Office supports international applicants with documentation and advice needed to obtain

international student status (including acceptable “proof of funding” criteria, if necessary).

### **Departmental Admission**

To determine admissibility to the graduate program (M.S. or Ph.D.), the department requires that students meet the minimum admission requirements of the LSU Graduate School as outlined above. In addition, students must have an adequate background in economics, statistics, and mathematics. Adequate background is typically defined to include courses in macro and micro economic theory, statistics or econometrics, and calculus/math for economists. Students applying for the M.S. Agribusiness area of study should have background in marketing, management, finance, and accounting. Students applying for admission to the Ph.D. program should have completed an M.S. degree and be prepared to take on the LSU Department of Economics advanced microeconomic theory sequence.

The departmental graduate committee reviews all complete applications for consideration for admission and funding. In addition to the Graduate School and departmental requirements above, complete applications must include (1) GRE General Test scores (required for all applicants, domestic and international); (2) three letters of recommendation; (3) a personal statement describing the applicant’s background and interest in the degree program. Applicants that do not meet the Graduate School’s minimum GPA (3.0) requirement may be admissible to the department on a probationary status if the department deems the other admissibility criteria (GRE scores, reference letters, etc) to be sufficiently strong.

### **III. General Policies**

The advising of students in the Department's graduate program is a shared responsibility. Each graduate student is supervised by a Major Professor (hereafter referred to as the Student’s Graduate Committee (SGC) Chair). SGC Chairs are expected to provide guidance as needed and

to work directly with students in developing the plan of study and research proposals. While all faculty members are generally available for consultation with the student, the SGC Chair provides continuity of counsel throughout the program. SGC Chairs and students work together to select other faculty members to serve on the SGC.

The Student’s Graduate Committee (SGC) approves the Program of Study and the research proposal. The Program of Study should be developed in the first semester and approved by the SGC. To ensure that departmental guidelines are met, programs of study are then submitted to the Department Head for full approval. The Program of Study is used for annual reviews at the end of each Spring Semester. Research proposals are also forwarded for approval by the Department Head.

Graduate committees administering the final oral defense are appointed by the Graduate School upon recommendation by the Department. If a minor is pursued, these committees must include one representative from the minor department. Ph.D. committees also include an outside representative appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School.

M.S. thesis and Ph.D. students must present two formal seminars on their research topic. The first seminar is presented in the formative stages of the proposal. This presentation is made to the student's graduate committee after the research proposal has been developed, but before final approval by the SGC. A second seminar is presented as the research nears completion. It is presented to the departmental faculty and university community prior to scheduling the final examination, at a time determined by the SGC Chair.

### **Graduate Committees**

Specific requirements for graduate degrees are determined by the student's graduate committee (SGC) following the guidelines set by the Graduate School and the department. The DGS serves as or appoints an academic adviser for entering graduate students and assists students in

forming the SGC from members of the graduate early in their graduate programs. Whenever possible, committee formation and committee chair selection match student and faculty research interests. All M.S. students are encouraged to form their committees, consisting of a chair plus two committee members from the Department, with at least one full member of the graduate faculty (Associate or Full Professor) by the end of the first semester of their graduate program but preferably sooner. Ph.D. SGCs also consist of a chair and two additional members from the department, with at least two full members of the graduate faculty. In addition, Dean's Representative will be appointed to the SGC-by the Graduate School at the time of the General Defense.

### Assistantships

Students pursuing the thesis M.S. or Ph.D. degrees will be considered for graduate research assistantships. Assistantships are awarded to qualified students based on the availability of funds and on a competitive basis. Students must demonstrate satisfactory progress in both course work and research to continue on assistantship. A grade-point average of  $\geq 3.0$  and enrollment as a full-time student must be maintained. M.S. students on assistantship will not be permitted to change to the non-thesis option after completing one semester or summer term.

The initial assistantship term is 12 months. For M.S. students in good academic and accountability standing assistantships may be renewed for a **maximum of 2 years**. For Ph.D. students who remain in good academic and accountability standing, assistantships may be renewed for a **maximum of 4 years**. Students on assistantships are generally granted a waiver of in-state tuition and the non-resident fee.

Graduate assistantships involve work responsibilities throughout the year, including summers. Students appointed to a departmental assistantship are expected to consider it, together with their course work, as a full-time commitment (20 hours per week for assistantship work, and another 20 hours for coursework and

thesis/dissertation work). As a result, students accepting a departmental assistantship must agree not to pursue part-time or full-time employment from other sources.

To remain eligible for an assistantship, students are required to remain in good "academic and accountability standing", a term defined in the Graduate Catalog. At a minimum, this includes maintaining a 3.0 GPA, registering as a full-time (9 credit hours during each fall and spring semester, and 6 credit hours during the Summer), maintaining satisfactory assistantship work, and making adequate progress toward key milestones such as coursework completion and M.S. and Ph.D. defenses.

Students are also required to register for a minimum of 3 credit hours of AGEC 8000 (MS) or 9000 (PhD) in the Fall and Spring semesters, and 6 credit hours during the summer term. Students should be sure to register for the section that corresponds to their SGC Chair.

### Dual Majors

Masters and Ph.D. students may pursue a dual major in complementary fields. Interested students must consult with, and receive approval from, their SGC Chair prior to enrolling in a secondary degree program. Departmental assistantships are provided for the primary degree only. Therefore, dual majors may only be approved for students on departmental assistantships who have met or exceeded departmental expectations. In addition to the approval of the SGC Chair, the Program of Study for those pursuing dual majors must be approved by chair of the graduate committee in the department head in Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, and the department head in the secondary program. Dual major students must meet all the requirements of both departments.

- Students in the M.S. program must have an approved Program of Study in both degrees with a completion date not to exceed the expected graduation date in agricultural economics.
- Students in the Ph.D. program may apply for a dual major only after

successful completion of the qualifying examination. Enrollment in the dual major must start no later than the end of their second year.

### **Minors in Agricultural Economics**

Students wishing to obtain an agricultural economics minor are expected to attain a minimum level of competence in the field. Specific hour requirements will be partially based on the student's background at the undergraduate or graduate level. The following are general requirements for graduate minors.

At the M.S. level, a minor must include at least 9 hours of approved courses at the 4000 level and above (graduate plus undergraduate) taken in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. No fewer than 6 hours must be taken as a graduate student. For example, students with no previous course work in agricultural economics must take 9 hours as a graduate student. Students with 3 or more hours of previous course work in agricultural economics must take 6 hours as a graduate student. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for the minor courses.

At the Ph.D. level, a minor must include a minimum of 15 hours of approved course work at the 4000 level and above (graduate plus undergraduate) taken in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. No fewer than 6 hours must be taken at the Ph.D. level and 3 of these ~~six~~ 6 hours must be at the 7000 level. For example, students with no previous course work in agricultural economics must take 15 hours while a Ph.D. student, ~~three~~ 3 of which must be at the 7000 level. Students with previous course work of 9 or more hours at the graduate or undergraduate level must take 6 hours as a graduate student, 3 of which must be at the 7000 level. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for the minor courses.

### **Continued Enrollment after M.S.**

Master's (thesis) students desiring to continue working toward the Ph.D. degree in the

Department should contact the graduate advisor and follow these procedures: (1) Submit a letter requesting continuation in the department's graduate program for the purpose of pursuing a Ph.D. degree; (2) Submit three letters of recommendation from faculty supporting the request; (3) Submit a transcript of M.S. course work; and (4) If an assistantship is desired, submit the standard application form. A new assistantship application is required for students holding a master's assistantship.

### **Students Pursuing the Ph.D. with Master's Degrees from Other Fields**

Students holding master's degrees from other fields occasionally wish to pursue the Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics. In such cases, if the student has written a master's thesis, completed suitable coursework in Economics, Statistics, and Mathematics, and has the academic credentials for Ph.D. work, he or she may be eligible for direct admission into the Ph.D. program. In cases where the student has completed a master's thesis in another field, has strong academic credentials, but does not have the background in Economics, Mathematics, and Statistics for admission to the Ph.D. program, the student may be admitted as an M.S. non-thesis student, to officially move into the Ph.D. program upon completion of the M.S. program.

### **Admission from Nonmatriculating Status**

Students not adequately prepared for graduate study in the Department may elect to enter LSU as a non-matriculating student in the College of Agriculture in order to demonstrate ability to perform satisfactorily in a graduate program. The following guidelines apply to students who seek admission to the department's graduate program via the non-matriculated route: (1) The courses a student is required to take in a non-matriculated status must be determined by the Department; (2) The minimum grade point requirement on the hours of non-matriculated course work for admission on the thesis option is 3.0. No course may be completed with a grade less than a "B-"; (3) Admission on either a probationary or regular basis will depend on the level of performance

above the minimum described in (2) above, GRE scores, and acceptance by the Graduate School.

### **Progress of Graduate Students**

Each graduate student must submit reports documenting progress in the graduate program (Appendix B). The reports are submitted through the student's SGC Chair each year by May 31. The student's input includes a summary of graduate school requirements met to date, details of courses taken, progress made toward completing the thesis or dissertation, and a report on research accomplishments.

Evaluation of student progress and suggestions for future activities will be made by the SGC Chair. The student's report will be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> and will be used in determining continuing enrollment in the program and assistantship funding for the following year.

## **IV. Studies Leading to a M.S. Degree**

The Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness offers the M.S. degree in three areas of study – Agribusiness Management, Natural Resource and Environmental Policy, and Agricultural Economics (Tables 1 - 3). All areas of study offer a thesis (research) and non-thesis option. All M.S. students must successfully complete the designated course work and a final oral defense. No more than 12 semester hours may be transferred from another college or university. To be considered for transfer credit, courses must have been a part of an otherwise acceptable graduate program. No credit will be transferred for a course completed with a grade of "C" or below or "unsatisfactory" or the equivalent. Transfer of credit requires the approval of both the Department Head and the Dean of the Graduate School. All graduate level AGEC courses ("7000 Level courses") are listed in Appendix D.

### **M.S. Thesis (Research) Option**

Coursework requirements for the three areas of study are specified in terms of core courses and other courses required to meet the requirements.

Core courses must be taken by all students. The thesis option in any area of study requires a minimum of 33 semester hours of course work including a thesis, which is equivalent to 6 semester hours. Students pursuing the thesis option must complete 18 hours of required courses, 9 hours of approved electives and 6 hours of thesis research in each program option. As a part of their required courses, students in the Agribusiness Management area of study must complete an Agribusiness Internship. The Agribusiness Internship is to be identified by the student and graduate adviser and should complement the research objectives of the thesis as well as the career objectives of the student.

At least half of the minimum Graduate School course requirement must be in course work numbered 7000 and above. In addition, students following the thesis option are required to submit an acceptable thesis and perform satisfactorily on the final oral defense.

### **Non-Thesis Option**

The non-thesis option for the M.S. degree provides students with an opportunity to expand their academic portfolio by pursuing advanced training in topics of professional interest, providing a suitable background for employment in the private or public sector.

All areas of study in the M.S. non-thesis option require 36 semester hours of course work, at least 18 of which must be in courses numbered 7000 and above. **Research assistantships are not awarded to students in the non-thesis option.**

### **M.S. Defense**

M.S. students are required to successfully complete a final oral defense administered by the Student's Graduate Committee during the last semester of enrollment. The final oral defense for students on the thesis option focuses on the thesis project. Students in the non-thesis option must

also satisfactorily complete a final oral defense which is broader in scope.

### **Students Planning to Pursue a Ph.D. upon Completion of the M.S. Degree**

Master's students who upon completing the degree are expecting to move into a Ph.D. program in Agricultural Economics are urged to follow a more advanced program for preparation. Students should consider taking ECON 7610 Mathematics for Economists and are urged to take differential calculus and linear algebra courses.

### **V. Studies Leading to a Ph.D. Degree**

The Ph.D. program is a rigorous extension of M.S. work with the opportunity for the student to broaden and strengthen their training. Students applying for the Ph.D. program should have completed an M.S. degree. In addition to training in economics and agricultural economics, the student is expected to be sufficiently grounded in mathematics and statistics. It is the responsibility of the student to address any deficiencies. All 7000-level AGECE courses are listed in Appendix D.

There are 6 major steps in fulfilling the requirements for the Ph.D. in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness: (1) development of the Program of Study; (2) demonstration of proficiency in advanced microeconomic theory; (3) completion of required coursework; (4) completion of the second-year paper; (5) completing the General Defense, oral defense of the dissertation proposal); and (6) completion oral defense of the final dissertation.

In addition, students in the Ph.D. program must maintain continuous registration for a minimum of three semester hours of credit each regular semester (excluding summers) from the completion of the general defense to the end of the semester in which an approved dissertation is submitted to the Graduate School. Students holding assistantships during this time must meet enrollment requirements of the assistantship. Graduate students must be in good academic

standing to qualify for examinations and defenses.

### **Program of Study**

Once the SGC has been formed, students are expected to develop a Program of Study and have it approved by their SGC. The SGC will then forward the Program of Study to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and Department Head for Approval.

### **Qualifying Examination in Advanced Microeconomics**

Proficiency in advanced microeconomic theory is critical for success in the Ph.D. program and, therefore, all Ph.D. Students must demonstrate proficiency by the end of the first year of doctoral study. All Ph.D. students must complete the first year advanced microeconomic theory sequence in the LSU Department of Economics (ECON 7702 and ECON 7703) **AND** pass the advanced microeconomic theory qualifying examination administered by the LSU Department of Economics during the summer after the first year of graduate study. Students must meet the eligibility criteria for the qualifying exam established by the LSU Department of Economics.

At the discretion of the SGC, DGC, and Department Head, students who fail the qualifying examination may be granted one more opportunity to pass a second qualifying exam administered by the department during the fall semester of their second year of graduate study. Students who fail two attempts at passing the advanced microeconomic theory qualifying examination will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Students transferring into the Ph.D. program from other programs may be exempted from demonstrating proficiency in advanced microeconomic theory at LSU if they have previously demonstrated proficiency by completing parallel courses and qualifying examinations in approved economics departments at other universities. The SGC, DGC, and Department Head must approve the

equivalent course grade and qualifying examination result.

### **Ph.D. Course Requirements**

Table 6 shows requirements and the general structure of coursework in the Ph.D. program. The number of credit hours required as shown is beyond the B.S. level. Students normally are expected to exceed these minimum requirements. Approved electives may be used to develop a specialization or to gain breadth in the Ph.D. program. Students entering the program with deficiencies in their background training may be required to take additional courses.

### **Second Year Paper**

The second-year paper consists of original scholarly research and writing by students during their second year of their doctoral program. The second-year paper must reflect the student's original work conducted during their studies at LSU, and demonstrate expertise in the subject matter that is consistent with recent advances in at least one area of specialization. Student Graduate Committee chairs (SGC, also known as major professors) provide guidance on all aspects of the second-year paper. The paper should be approximately 25-30 pages long and follow the style and formatting guidelines set by a top-tier agricultural economics journal. A 4-5 page topic proposal, first approved by the student's graduate committee, must be submitted by the last day of Fall Holiday during the fall semester of the second year to the Graduate Committee Academic Chair (GCAC). The Second Year Paper Committee will read and evaluate each second-year paper proposal. If the proposal is deemed inadequate, the student will be given 30 days to revise and submit a satisfactory proposal. Failure to submit a satisfactory revised second-year paper proposal will result in termination from the program at the end of the fall semester.

After the second-year paper proposal is approved, the student will be expected to work diligently on the paper through the remainder of the fall and follow spring semester, with guidance from the SGC chair. The submission of the completed

second-year paper will be due at the end of May following the second year of study. The Second Year Paper Committee will read and evaluate each second-year paper. The review will follow the standard for SAEA/AEA contributed papers at the annual meetings, and initially result in one of the following outcomes: pass with distinction, pass, or revise and resubmit. Papers receiving a revise and resubmit must be resubmitted within 30 days. Failure to resubmit a passing paper by the deadline will result in a "fail" and the student will be terminated from the program. Each year, one paper will be selected for the Second-Year Paper Award.

### **General Defense**

An oral general defense is given after successfully completing the second-year paper. The general defense commonly covers the student's dissertation proposal, with questions dealing with economic theory and methods pertaining to the dissertation research. In addition to faculty members of the students SGC, the Graduate School assigns a Dean's Representative to join the SGC at the time of the general defense.

### **Final Dissertation Defense**

The final dissertation defense may be scheduled at least one semester after successful passing of the general defense. The final dissertation defense is an oral test administered by the student's graduate committee (SGC), including the Dean's Representative and any members from minor departments. The final dissertation defense primarily focuses on (but may not be exclusively confined to, the contents of the dissertation.

### **Preparation of the Dissertation**

Student's Graduate Committee (SGC) chairs should provide guidance to all Ph.D. students on the structure and style of their dissertation. Both "traditional" and three-paper models are commonly used in the department. Guidelines for preparation of both styles are presented in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*, available from the Graduate School.

**Table 1. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Agricultural Economics Study Area.**

<u><b>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>		<u><b>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis	3	ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7103: Advanced Statistical Methods in Ag	3	AGEC 7103: Advanced Statistical Methods in Ag	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
Total	18	Total	18
 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>		 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>	
Required Courses	18	Required Courses	18
Approved AGECE Electives	9	Approved AGECE Electives	15
Thesis Research Hours	6	AGECE 7703: Independent Study	3
 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 33	 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 36

**Table 2. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Study Area.**

<u><b>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>		<u><b>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
ENVS 7047: Environmental Econ and Policy	3	ENVS 7047: Environmental Econ and Policy	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
ECON 4320: Environmental Econ. or ENVS 7041: Environmental Policy Analysis	3	ECON 4320: Environmental Econ. or ENVS 7041: Environmental Policy Analysis	3
Total	18	Total	18
 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>		 <i>Minimum Requirements</i>	
Required Courses	18	Required Courses	18
Approved AGECE Electives	9	Approved AGECE Electives	15
Thesis Research Hours	6	AGECE 7703: Independent Study	3
 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 33	 <i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	 36

**Table 3. AGECE M.S. Program Coursework Summary for the Agribusiness Management Study Area.**

<u><b>M.S. Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>		<u><b>M.S. Non-Thesis Course Requirements</b></u>	
<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>	<i>Required Courses</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3	ECON 7701: Intro to Adv. Micro	3
ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3	ECON 4630: Intro to Econometrics	3
AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3	AGEC 7113: Agribusiness Research Applications	3
AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3	AGEC 7123: Operations Research Methods in Ag Econ	3
AGEC 7700: Agribusiness Internship	3	AGEC 7700: Agribusiness Internship	3
AGEC 7613: Agricultural Trade or AGEC 7203: Advanced Agricultural Marketing Theory	3	AGEC 7613: Agricultural Trade or AGEC 7203: Advanced Agricultural Marketing Theory	3
Total	18	Total	18
<i><b>Minimum Requirements</b></i>		<i><b>Minimum Requirements</b></i>	
Required Courses	18	Required Courses	18
Approved AGECE Electives	9	Approved Agribusiness Electives	18
Thesis Research Hours	6		
<i><b>Total Minimum Credit Hours</b></i>	<b>33</b>	<i><b>Total Minimum Credit Hours</b></i>	<b>36</b>

**Table 4. M.S. Thesis Degree Timetable**

<b>Program Item</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Orientation	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Director of Graduate Studies is the temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Major Professor/SGC Chair Assignment	Orientation period – midterm of entering semester.	The SGC Chair becomes the primary academic mentor and GA work supervisor.
Complete Program of Study	By the end of the first semester.	Approved by the SGC and Department Head.
Complete Research Proposal	By the end of the second semester.	Proposal presented to and approved by the SGC and Department Head.
Internship (Required for Agricultural Business Study Area)	During or prior to last semester.	Student, in consultation with SGC chair, must make all internship arrangements.
Departmental Research Seminar	As thesis research is nearing completion, but prior to scheduling final defense.	Schedule, and inform department personnel, one month prior to presentation.
Final Oral Defense	During student’s last semester of enrollment.	After thesis is completed. Administered by the SGC. Submit Grad School forms submitted by deadline.

**Table 5. M.S. Non-Thesis Degree Timetable**

<b>Program Item</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Orientation	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Director of Graduate Studies is the temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Major Professor/SGC Chair Assignment	Orientation period – midterm of entering semester.	The SGC Chair becomes the primary academic mentor and GA work supervisor.
Complete Program of Study	By the end of the first semester.	Approved by the SGC and Department Head.
Internship (Required for Agricultural Business Study Area)	During or prior to last semester.	Student, in consultation with SGC chair, must make all internship arrangements.
Final Oral Defense	During student’s last semester of enrollment.	Administered by the SGC. Submit Grad School forms submitted by deadline.

**Table 6. AGEC Ph.D. Program Coursework Summary**

<b><i>Required Courses -- Theory</i></b>	<b><i>Credit Hours</i></b>
ECON 7610: Mathematics for Economists	3
ECON 7717: Intro to Advanced Macroeconomics	3
ECON 7702: Advanced Microeconomics I	3
ECON 7703: Advanced Microeconomics II	3
<b><i>Required Courses – Quantitative Methods</i></b>	
ECON 7630: Econometric Methods I	3
ECON 7631: Econometric Methods II	3
<b><i>Additional Quantitative Methods Course</i></b>	
AGEC 7123 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics <i>or</i> ECON 7632 Econometric Theory III <i>or</i> ECON 7633 Dynamic Econometric Theory	3
<b><i>Additional 7000-level Courses</i></b>	
Approved 7000-level Courses	18
<b><i>Minimum Requirements</i></b>	
Required Courses	18
Additional Quantitative Methods Course	3
Approved 7000-level AGEC Courses	18
Other Approved 7000-level Electives	6
Dissertation Research Hours	12
<b><i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i></b>	<b>57</b>

**Table 7. Ph.D. Degree Timetable.**

<b>Program Item</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Orientation & Workshop	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Director of Graduate Studies is the temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Assign Student's Graduate Committee (SGC) Chair	Orientation period - midterm of entering semester.	The SGC chair becomes the permanent academic and work adviser.
Program of Study	By the end of first semester.	Approved by the SGC, DGC, and Department Head.
Proficiency in Advanced Microeconomic Theory	End of the first year	Advanced Micro I and II and ECON micro qualifying exam
Completion of Coursework	By the end of the Third Year	May vary depending on Program of Study
Second-Year Paper	Summer after Second Full Year. If needed revisions due within 30 days.	Reviewed by the Second Year Paper Committee.
General Defense	Following Second Year Paper.	Administered by SGC, Grad School's Dean's Rep joins the SGC. Submit Grad School forms submitted by deadline.
Departmental Research Seminar	As dissertation research is nearing completion, prior to scheduling final defense.	Schedule, and inform department personnel, one month prior to presentation.
Final Dissertation Defense	During student's last semester of enrollment, after dissertation has been completed.	Administered by SGC (with Dean's Rep). Submit Grad School forms submitted by deadline.

## **Appendix A. The Graduate Faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness**

**Biswas, Trina.** Instructor. Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 2015.  
*Research Areas:* International Trade, Marketing and Agribusiness.

**Caffey, Rex H.** Donald E. Welge Professor. Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 1998.  
*Extension/Research Areas:* Wetlands and Coastal Resources.

**Deliberto, Michael.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Louisiana State University, 2015.  
*Extension/Research Areas:* Farm Management.

**Fannin, J. Matthew** William H. Alexander Professor. Ph.D., The University of Missouri, 2003.  
*Research Areas:* Community and Rural Development.

**Goyal, Raghav.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2022.  
*Research Areas:* Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Commodity and Financial Markets and Economics, Public Policy, Price Analysis, Commodity Derivatives, Economic Forecasting, Statistical Analysis, Machine Learning Applications.

**Guo, Jinggang.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Swedish University of Agricultural Scientists, 2018.  
*Research Areas:* Forestry Economics, Environmental Economics, and Trade Policy.

**Kennedy, P. Lynn.** Crescent City Tigers Alumni Professor and Head. Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1994.  
*Research Areas:* International Trade, Marketing and Agribusiness.

**Li, Qingxiao.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2021.  
*Research Areas:* Agribusiness, Consumer Economics, Food and Agricultural Economics

**Lim, Sunghun.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2020.  
*Research Areas:* International Trade, International Agribusiness, Trade Policy

**Penn, Jerrod.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., The University of Kentucky, University, 2017.  
*Research Areas:* Natural Resource and Environmental Economics.

**Schafer, Mark.** Associate Professor. Ph.D., Indiana University, 1999.  
*Research Areas:* Sociology of Education, Comparative International Development, Rural Sociology.

**Zapata, Hector O.** Past Presidents of the LSU Alumni Association Alumni Professor. Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1987.  
*Research Areas:* Price Analysis, Agricultural Marketing, Financial Economics, Econometrics and Quantitative Methods.

**Zheng, Jiameng.** Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2021.  
*Research Areas:* Environmental Economics and Policy, Health Economics

## Appendix B: Graduate Student Progress Report

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Entering Program:** M.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.D. \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduate Student Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_, Major Professor  
 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Grade Point Average:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Six Core Courses Completed on:** \_\_\_\_\_ with a GPA of \_\_\_\_\_ (*for Ph.D. only*)

**Program of Study Approved on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Research Proposal Approved on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coursework Completed on:** \_\_\_\_\_

**General Exam/Second Year Paper Completed on:** \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ph.D. only*)

**Departmental Seminar given on:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expected Date of Completion:** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Research Accomplishments Since Last Report.** Among other accomplishments you wish to note, *include a list of presentations and publications since May 1st* (attach additional pages if necessary). If you have a vita, please attach that as well.

**Advisor's Evaluation of Student Performance (please circle the appropriate responses for each item):**

Overall quality of work	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Timeliness of task completion	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Focused on assignments	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Takes initiative in assignments	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Makes suggestions for improvements	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory
Works well with other staff	Unsatisfactory	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory

Please include any additional comments you may have below:

**Signatures:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduate Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Major Professor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C. 7000-level AGE C Courses

**7103 Advanced Statistical Methods in Agriculture (3) S** Application of advanced statistical tools to problems in agricultural economics; emphasis on the general linear model, including diagnostics, applications, and interpretation.

**7113 Agribusiness Research Applications (3) F** Introduction to and overview of agribusiness research strategies; design of agribusiness research projects; preparation for data collection; collection of evidence; analysis of evidence; composition of research reports; applications to agribusiness market analysis, agribusiness planning and management, and agribusiness forecasting.

**7123 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics (3) F-E** Applications of operations research methods to economic problems in agricultural production, marketing, and resource use; linear and nonlinear programming, integer programming; network analysis; dynamic programming; queuing; simulation.

**7203 Advanced Agricultural Marketing Theory (3) F-O** *Prereq.: ECON 7701 or concurrent enrollment.* Basic and applied analytical procedures in marketing research emphasizing quantitative methods; firm theory applied to marketing.

**7213 Applied Food Demand for Food Commodities (3) S-O** Examination of demand for food commodities from analytical and empirical perspectives; emphasis on economic principles that, combined with proper analytical techniques, enable students to derive theoretically-based demand systems for various components of the food and related marketing sectors.

**7303 Agricultural Production Economics (3) S-E** *Prereq.: ECON 7701 or concurrent enrollment.* Production principles applied to use of agricultural resources; analysis and interpretation of research data; theory of the farm firm, including costs, uncertainty, and expectations.

**7313 Agricultural Production and Labor Supply (3) F-O** Labor supply decisions and empirical analysis for agricultural operators and other self-employed and wage-earning households; multiple job holding; resource allocation in productive farm households; human capital formation by households and firms. Implications for household income and welfare; applications to problems in rural areas of developing and developed countries.

**7513 Dynamics in Natural Resource Economics (3) F-O** Dynamic economic concepts in evaluating natural resource problems. Economically optimal usage of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources.

**7523 Nonmarket Valuation Methods in Agriculture and Natural Resources (3) F-E** Economic concepts and methods of nonmarket valuation applied to agricultural and natural resource economics; contingent valuation, hedonic pricing, travel cost, conjoint analysis and contingent ranking, and benefit transfer.

**7603 Advanced Agricultural Policy (3) S-E** *Prereq.: ECON 7701 or concurrent enrollment.* Development of agricultural policy; emphasis on objectives, procedures, accomplishments, and consequences of policy on agriculture and rural areas.

**7613 International Agricultural Trade (3) S-O** *Prereq.: ECON 7701 or concurrent enrollment.* International economic trade theory; special reference to trade in agricultural products.

**7623 Rural Development Economics (3) F-E** *Prereq.: ECON 7701 or concurrent enrollment.* Theoretical concepts in international and domestic rural development; empirical methods used in analysis of economic

structure and growth; modeling public policy issues concerning international and domestic rural development.

**7700 Internship in Agribusiness Administration (3) F, S, Su** *Prereq.: Prior approval of student's graduate committee. Open only to agricultural economics master's students. May be taken for a maximum of 3 hours of credit. 300 hours of learning experience. General supervision by a faculty member; direct supervision by an agribusiness professional. Pass/fail grading based on a written evaluation by the professional supervisor, a written report by the student, and the faculty member's evaluation.*

**7710 Advanced Topics in Agricultural Economics (1-3) F, S, Su** *Prereq.: Consent of instructor. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours of credit when topics vary. New and specialized topics in agricultural economics.*

**8000 Thesis Research (1-12 per sem.)** "S"/"U" grading.

**9000 Dissertation Research (1-12 per sem.)** "S"/"U" grading.

## **Appendix D: Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association**

The Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association (AEGSA) is composed of all graduate students in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. The AEGSA exists to promote the exchange of ideas and opinions among students and faculty. In addition, it provides a means whereby graduate students may express themselves effectively on matters, which affect their social, economic, physical, and intellectual welfare.

Officers of the AEGSA include President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The President serves as a liaison with the Department Head and Graduate Coordinator, attends faculty meetings, and appoints special committees as needed. Officers serve for a term of one academic year beginning with the spring semester and terminating at the end of the fall semester. Graduate students are represented through the AEGSA on Departmental committees including the Seminar Committee, the Graduate Committee, and the Computer Committee.

Members of the AEGSA plan activities, which promote social and professional interaction between graduate students and faculty. The AEGSA also facilitates the exchange of information and material to assist graduate students in their academic needs. In addition to the activities noted above, the AEGSA assists students in their relocation to Baton Rouge, their orientation to LSU and the Department. New students are encouraged to participate in the activities of the AEGSA in order to enhance their social and educational experience at LSU.