

HANDBOOK OF GRADUATE PROGRAM POLICIES

Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

**Academic Year 2025-2026
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

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A LETTER FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dear Graduate Students,

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas and welcome to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness (AEAB). We are excited that you have chosen to further your studies with us.

The purpose of this *Handbook* is to provide you with requirements for obtaining your Master of Science in Agricultural Economics (AGEC). This handbook highlights the requirements for each of our five concentrations and informs you of the resources to assist you with your matriculation through the program. Please read the *Handbook* carefully and become familiar with its contents.

This *Handbook* is not the only source of information about graduate programs at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. The Graduate School publishes the *Graduate School Catalog* annually. The *Catalog* provides additional information about graduate programs on this campus. It also lists all courses that have been approved for graduate credit. Finally, the Graduate School electronically publishes its own handbook called the *Graduate School Handbook*. It can be accessed at: [Graduate Student Handbook](#).

The *Graduate School Handbook* publishes detailed information on the policies and procedures governing graduate student studies and degree requirements for all graduate students. Neither the *Graduate School Catalog* nor the *Graduate Student Handbook* is meant to be read in its entirety by an AEAB graduate student. Those two publications are meant to be used as references for specific questions not covered in this, the AEAB *Handbook*.

We look forward to your participation in one of our graduate concentrations. While we have strong expectations of you (please see Appendices A and B) please remember your graduate program faculty and support staff are here to assist you along the way. We hope you will find this a very rewarding experience!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jada Thompson
Graduate Programs Coordinator
Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
Division of Agriculture
Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

EXPECTATIONS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

As one of our graduate students, you may be a participant in the traditional thesis program, traditional non-thesis program, Atlantis thesis program or International Agribusiness non-thesis program. We would like the opportunity now to go over some expectations of all graduate students, and special expectations that may be associated with a particular program.

In AEAB we expect our graduate students to be:

Academically Focused

Graduate coursework is more specialized and rigorous than at the undergraduate level. While course loads may be lighter, expectations are higher. Students are responsible for engaging fully—attending class, participating actively, and staying prepared through independent study. Faculty will facilitate the learning process, but students are responsible for actively engaging with the material. Students are expected to take ownership of their programs and to come to class fully prepared.

Intellectually Curious

Graduate study across all disciplines emphasizes the importance of independent learning. Students are expected to actively seek opportunities for learning outside of the classroom to deepen their understanding and professional development including attending department or university seminars, engaging in research development through coursework or independent projects, and presenting research at academic or professional meetings.

Engaged in the AEAB Community

Graduate students are encouraged to collaborate with peers and build connections with faculty. Social and academic gatherings throughout the year offer opportunities for personal and professional growth.

In Charge of Degree Progress

Each student is assigned an academic advisor and thesis students will be assigned a thesis advisor. Additionally, the graduate program administrative assistant support and graduate program chair are available to help clarify program and university policies. While these individuals are valuable resources, **students are ultimately responsible for meeting all degree requirements**. This includes reading the AEAB Handbook, proactively selecting courses, making progress on thesis work, and staying in regular communication with advisors and program staff. Students are encouraged to reach out to the graduate program coordinator with any questions or concerns (academic or otherwise).

These expectations are discussed during the AEAB Graduate Orientation program where students will have the opportunity to ask questions and attest to their understanding of these expectations by signing the form found in Appendix A. Additional expectations exist for graduate assistants and are found in Appendix B.

Welcome to graduate school! Graduate school will differ from your undergraduate experience and bring new challenges both in and out of the classroom. There may be times when you feel overwhelmed, but we believe you are capable of success. While it may feel overwhelming at times, you are capable of success. Along the way,

you'll gain valuable skills, discover new professional interests, and build lasting relationships. You'll leave with a strong sense of accomplishment and be well prepared for your next step.

HANDBOOK OF GRADUATE PROGRAM POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville offers graduate programs of study leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Agricultural Economics. Advanced study in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business provides students with state of—the--art knowledge of theory, methods and application in the field. The student becomes better prepared for positions in the dynamic environment of contemporary agribusiness and production agriculture, as well as any number of other industries requiring critical thinking skills and analytical abilities.

Graduate study in Agricultural Economics provides broad, but coordinated, training in either thesis or non-thesis concentrations of study. Such study affords opportunities for bringing together technical information from subject-matter areas both within and outside agriculture for deriving useful recommendations for decision-making at all levels of agribusiness.

Students receive personal attention and guidance in developing and carrying out their graduate program. These programs may be tailored for either a terminal Master's degree with a focus on agribusiness, or as a preparation for additional study leading to the Ph.D. degree.

Degree Programs:

- M.S. in Agricultural Economics (Thesis)
- M.S. in Agricultural Economics (Agribusiness, Non-thesis)
- Double M.S. degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arkansas and International Master of Science in Rural Development from our European Consortium partners (Atlantis Double MS Degree)
- M.S. in Agricultural Economics (International Agribusiness, Non-thesis) which is a program where students study for one semester at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium.
- Double Master of Law in Agricultural and Food Law (LL.M.) and Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, both from University of Arkansas. Double Juris Doctorate in Law and Master of Science in Agricultural Economics, both from University of Arkansas (pending review)

The **thesis concentration** is designed to provide students strong quantitative and analytical skills. These skills are required by many private businesses and public agencies as part of their research and development programs. Typically, the thesis program takes two years for the well-prepared student. The thesis concentration is also excellent preparation for additional study leading to the Ph.D. degree.

The **non-thesis concentration** aims to prepare students with advanced skills for advancement in the agribusiness/industry sector. Students selecting the agribusiness focus receive excellent preparation for positions in business, including agribusiness and financial institutions, or as a manager of their own business. This agribusiness focus is designed to be completed in one calendar year for students with no deficiency courses.

The **Atlantis Program** provides the opportunity to earn two degrees: an MS in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas and a joint MS in rural development from a consortium of six universities in the European

Union (EU). Our EU partners in the consortium are: Ghent University (Ghent, Belgium); Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany); The Agro Institute (Rennes, France); Slovak University of Agriculture (Nitra, Slovak Republic); University of Pisa (Pisa, Italy); and University of Cordoba (Cordoba, Spain). The Atlantis Program trains specialists with comparative knowledge on US, EU, and international agricultural economic and rural development policies. The program consists of four “semester-modules” and one “case study” over two academic years. Modules 1 and 2 are two semesters of course work during the first year. The practical case study is during the summer months between the first and second year. In the second year of the program, Module 3 is a third semester of course work targeted at the student’s research interests, followed by the writing of a master’s thesis, potentially on a comparative US-EU study, in the final semester (Module 4). Students study abroad for up to one year with U.S. students studying at two or three EU consortium universities and EU students studying at the University of Arkansas. More details are available from the Coordinator for the Atlantis and International Agribusiness Programs Dr. Bruce L. Ahrendsen, who may be contacted by phone or email at 479-575-6643 or ahrend@uark.edu.

The **international non-thesis agribusiness** requires approximately eighteen months for students with no deficiency courses. Students spend two semesters at UA-Fayetteville and one semester at Ghent University as part of the international agribusiness focus. This unique international exposure for students enhances their education and development and is critical since all national economies operate within an international environment. This is particularly true for Arkansas and the United States where an increasing percentage of agricultural production is destined for international markets. More details are available from the Coordinator for the Atlantis and International Agribusiness Programs Dr. Bruce L. Ahrendsen, who may be contacted by phone or email at 479-575-6643 or ahrend@uark.edu.

The Department also has participated in a **double M.S in Agricultural Economics and Masters in Agricultural and Food Law Program**. This program is currently under review with the Law School and the Graduate School. The Department is also seeking approval for a new double degree program M.S. in Agricultural Economics and Juris Doctorate in Law. This program is pending approval from the Law School and Graduate School. Please consult the Graduate Program Coordinator for information on the status of these programs.

The prerequisites for these programs are found in Appendix C-1. The requirements of each of these concentrations can be found in Appendix C-2 through C-6.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: Agribusiness, agricultural finance, agricultural marketing, agricultural outlook, agricultural policy, agricultural production, applied econometrics, cropping systems economics, economic development, environmental economics, farm management, financial management, food economics and policy, food marketing, futures markets, global marketing, industrial organization, integrated pest management, international development, international policy and trade, managerial economics, market infrastructure and development, natural resource economics and management, price risk management, product development, poultry economics, production economics, public finance, and risk management.

ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Graduate study meets a variety of needs, but the main objective of graduate study is the advancement and utilization of knowledge. One of the important prerequisites to graduate work is intellectual maturity. This enables the student to assume the initiative and responsibility necessary for the development of independent and objective thinking, and to comprehend more effectively basic issues and principles as they relate to the student's program of advanced study.

Admission to Graduate School and a Specific Program

Admission to graduate standing or graduate school does not admit a student to a specific graduate degree program. Therefore, in addition to satisfying the general admission requirements of the Graduate School, the applicant must satisfy the specific requirements and have the approval of the department in which he or she desires to pursue advanced study.

Regular Admission

A graduate from the University of Arkansas, or from an accredited college or university requiring substantially the same undergraduate program as is required at the University of Arkansas, may be admitted to graduate status if the student's grades are well above the average required for the bachelor's degree. In practice, this means a grade point average of 3.00 (out of a 4.0 scale) or above for all work recorded for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate credit or a 3.00 cumulative grade point average and having attained an acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). An applicant lacking the minimum grade-point requirements or not meeting GRE score expectations may be conditionally admitted as discussed in the Graduate Handbook in the sub-section titled "Classifications of Admission to Graduate Standing."

Admission to the M.S. program first requires that the student be admitted to the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. To gain admittance the student should write to the Graduate School Admissions Office, 340 North Campus Drive, Gearhart Hall 213, 1 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, or phone (1-866-234-3957) requesting application forms for admittance, or apply online:

<http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/> or

<https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/future-students/applying/index.php>

Application materials sent to the Graduate School include:

- 1) Payment of nonrefundable \$60 submitted online with a credit card or with a check by mail
- 2) For evaluation purposes, applicants may submit an unofficial copy of transcript(s) from the university where they received or will receive their first bachelor's degree. Upon admission, students will be required to submit official transcripts with degree confirmation for enrollment privileges.
- 3) A set of official scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE); GRE scores must be sent directly to the University of Arkansas, institution code = 6866.
- 4) Two letters of recommendation. Preferably, these letters will be submitted via the Graduate School Application Portal. Alternatively, these letters can be mailed in hard copy to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Room 217 Agriculture Building, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701
- 5) A resume or CV listing experience, education, extracurricular activities, and scholastic honors submitted via the Graduate School Application Portal.
- 6) If the student desires to be considered for a graduate assistantship, he or she must also request to be considered in their one or two-page statement of purpose.

Students interested in a campus visit can visit these sites for more information: <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/visit.php>

The application process for international applicants varies slightly from domestic applicants. For more information for international student applications, please visit: <https://international-admissions.uark.edu/graduate-studies/index.php>

Conditional Admission

If an applicant does not meet the above criteria for regular admission to the Graduate School, the applicant may be admitted, with the approval of the Graduate Program Committee (GPC) Chair and the Graduate Dean, on a 9-hour conditional admittance. To gain conditional admission the student must formulate a plan with the student's major academic advisor or the Graduate Program Coordinator regarding the courses to be taken during the first semester. To remove the conditional admission and achieve regular graduate school admission status, the student must earn a "B" (3.0 out of 4.0) or better on the first 9 hours of graduate-level work taken for the degree program. If the student has deficiencies (lacks one of the prerequisite courses listed in Appendix C-1), the student must achieve a "B" (3.0 out of 4.0) average in the deficiency courses as well as getting a 3.0 average on the first 9 hours of graduate-level work. Furthermore, the GPC Chair must file with the Graduate Dean a letter recommending that the student be given regular status and that the student be continued in that program of study leading to a graduate degree.

Admission of International Students

Applicants whose native language is not English (this also applies to some countries where English is one of several primary languages, <https://international-students.uark.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency.php#english-native-language>, lists those countries which are exempt) must satisfy the <https://international-students.uark.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency.php#english-native-language> by presenting satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL, our institution code is 6866 and our department code is 0101), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE-A), iTEP, C1 Advanced CAE, or Duolingo. The University defines a satisfactory score on TOEFL as 550 (paper-based)/213 (computer-based)/79 (internet-based) or above, 6.5 on the IELTS or above, or 58 on the PTE-A, or iTEP at least a 3.9, or C1 Advanced CAE (at least 176) or Duolingo 110 for admission and the test must have been taken within two years immediately preceding the requested semester of admission and be valid at the time of enrollment.¹ **No other measures of English proficiency are accepted by the University of Arkansas for the purpose of gaining admission.** Although a student may be admitted by meeting the overall English proficiency requirement, graduate students who are non-native speakers of English are required to submit an acceptable writing score. If a student does not have an acceptable writing score, he/she may be required to take English language and culture course(s) as deficiency courses. For more information, see tests and minimum scores for enrollment:

<https://international-students.uark.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency.php#english-native-language>

An international student must meet the requirements for regular admission status² (see the section on Regular Admission). Further, all international students must be accepted into programs of study leading to a graduate degree. In addition, international students are required to submit satisfactory evidence of adequate financial support. International students requesting consideration for a graduate teaching assistantship must also submit satisfactory scores on the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or an alternative specified by the Graduate School. For more information for international students, see tests and minimum scores for teaching assistantships:

<https://international-students.uark.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency.php#english-native-language>

¹ Atlantis students originating from a European partner institution may also satisfy the English proficiency requirement with proof of at least one year of university level study with instruction in English or successful completion of the intermediate academic English test at an accredited language center or proof of CFE – B2 level at an officially recognized language center at one of the European consortium universities.

² Atlantis students originating from a European partner institution are not subject to the graduate application fee, or GRE requirement. See also special rules for English proficiency.

Departmental Admission Policy

Unconditional admission into the graduate program in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness requires that the applicant first gain admission to the Graduate School and have passed courses related to the proposed field of study with at least an approximate "B" (3.0) average. An undergraduate degree in Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness is excellent preparation for graduate study in the respective fields. However, students with undergraduate degrees in other disciplines are often successful graduate students in agricultural economics or agribusiness. Therefore, in addition to the criteria set forth by the Graduate School for general admittance, the Department has specific course requirements as set forth in Appendix C-1 depending on the program of study in lieu of a specific undergraduate degree. Any student lacking these courses is required to take them, and such course work does not count towards fulfilling the specific course requirements of the master's degree. Students must obtain approximately a "B" (3.0) average on deficiency courses so designated at the time of notification of admission to the program. In lieu of taking a course in an area where the student is deficient, the student may challenge the course by requesting the Chair of the Graduate Programs Committee to arrange an examination of their knowledge of the deficient area.

Important Admissions/Assistantship Deadlines

Students may or may not be interested in applying for assistantships for their graduate studies. For students (both domestic and international) wishing to be considered for graduate assistantships, application deadlines are as follows:

- Summer Enrollment – December 15
- Fall Enrollment – December 15
- Spring Enrollment – September 1 (of previous calendar year)

For students who do not wish to be considered for assistantships, applications should reach the Graduate Admission Office by the scheduled dates listed below.

For domestic applications:

- Summer Enrollment – April 15
- Fall Enrollment – July 15 (AEAB guideline)
- Spring Enrollment – December 1 (of previous calendar year)

For international applications, priority will be given to the applicants who meet the following application deadlines:

- Summer Enrollment – March 1
- Fall Enrollment – May 1
- Spring Enrollment – October 1 (of previous calendar year)

<http://international-admissions.uark.edu/graduate-studies/application-deadlines.php> or <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/future-students/applying/degree-seeking.php>

FINANCIAL SUPPORT (Assistantships and Other Financial Support)

A limited number of graduate assistantships (GA) are available in the Department and are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified graduate students. Financial assistance in the form of part-time hourly employment may also be available to selected graduate students depending on the availability of funds. GAs

may be supported by research funds and teaching funds. Students receiving financial assistance supported by research funds accept a responsibility to participate in the research program of the Department by carrying out supervised research on their thesis project and/or on other research assigned by their thesis advisor and/or assistantship supervisor. GAs and hourly employment are normally awarded on a half-time basis and require that students devote themselves to their assigned efforts for 20 hours per week. GAs are normally not granted to students with a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 (out of 4.0) for their undergraduate program. A student receiving a GA supported by research funds must enroll in the thesis concentration and write a thesis unless otherwise permitted by the Department Head.

Graduate assistantships (GA) for students participating in the domestic thesis and Atlantis programs are appointed positions and are normally granted for up to two years. Graduate students who are awarded a half-time GA receive a monthly stipend for the duration of their appointment. GAs on half-time appointment are also granted waivers of in and out of-state tuition (if applicable) in addition to the stipend paid for the appointment. Thesis students may be awarded a tuition waiver of up to 37 credit hours. All other fees, (for example the health fee, activity fee and HPER recreational facility fee), must be paid by the student. Graduate assistants are also eligible for University sponsored health insurance (optional). Students that have a 50% assistantship (20 hour per week) are eligible to receive a 60% discount in the insurance premium. The application form is available at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/future-students/admitted-grad-students.php#grad-onboarding> Phone: 479-575-4451. Office: HLTH 1028

Graduate assistantships may also be awarded to University of Arkansas based students participating in the Atlantis Program. Atlantis students can be on these graduate assistantships while in the US and in Europe (though funding while in Europe depends on the GA received).

The forms needed to apply for financial assistance may be obtained by contacting the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Arkansas, AGRI 217, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 or via: <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/ga-application.pdf>. More information can be found at: <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/costs-and-funding/graduate-assistantships.php>

As stated above under deadlines, applications for assistantships should be received in the Department by January 1 for fall semester enrollment; September 1 for spring semester enrollment; January 1 for summer semester enrollment. **Students applying for assistantships should send application-for-admission materials to the Graduate School one month in advance of these deadlines.** Please see: <https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/application-proc.php>

The graduate assistantship applications are not complete until two letters of reference, resume or CV, and statement of purpose are submitted to AEAB. Preferably, these items are uploaded via the Graduate Student Portal, alternatively, the items can be emailed or mailed directly to the Department. Assistantships can only be granted to students already accepted into the Graduate School.

All graduate students on an assistantship must maintain a 3.0 grade point average on all graduate work attempted and display satisfactory progress in their research program or teaching duties in order to remain on appointment. Students hired on an hourly basis are reviewed periodically on the basis of their academic and work performance. Hourly financial assistance received by students is in return for work on departmental research projects or other assigned duties. Students who have received only hourly assistance may choose either the thesis or non-thesis concentrations.

Students may also seek other forms of financial assistance including:

- Benjamin Lever Fellowships: <https://graduate-students.uark.edu/cost-and-funding/index.php>
- Assistantships through other offices on campus. Please check the University employment website for any openings at: <https://jobs.uark.edu/>

It is not advised that graduate students have outside employment during their studies. Graduate school is a full-time job and outside employment can jeopardize the quality of work both at school and at the place of employment.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE

General requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Economics are:

1. 31 semester hours including a completed thesis, or 31 semester hours without a thesis. Under the thesis concentration, 6 of the 31 hours are for thesis credit. The various course requirements for the thesis and non-thesis concentrations are in Appendix C-1.
2. A comprehensive oral examination for thesis students; a comprehensive written examination for non-thesis students.
3. A cumulative grade point average of 2.85 or better. GA recipients need to maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average.
4. Minimum residence of 24 weeks.
5. A grade of "D" or "F" in a course means that course will not count toward the 31-hour requirement, although the earned grade does count in determining overall grade point average.
6. All graduate students are reviewed annually for satisfactory progress in March/April as discussed later in this document.

Program of Study

Under ordinary circumstances, enrollment in courses for the graduate programs, including undergraduate courses, is 9 to 13 hours per semester. Students on research funded graduate assistantships may not ordinarily enroll for more than 10 hours, nor fewer than 6 hours during a semester. However, a research funded graduate assistant may enroll for up to 13 hours with the approval of the Department Head. Students on teaching funded graduate assistantships may not ordinarily enroll for more than 13 hours, nor fewer than 6 hours per semester. During the summer a student on a graduate assistantship may enroll for up to 9 hours as approved by his or her advisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. More details can be found at: <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/registration-enrollment/index.php>

Enrollment under normal circumstances for a student not on assistantship is limited to 18 hours for any one semester in the fall or spring, including undergraduate courses and courses audited. Registration above 15 hours must be approved by the Graduate Dean. For registration in the summer, the enrollment limit is 12 hours without approval by the Graduate Dean.

All students must attend and participate in AGEC 50101 Seminar during their first semester unless an exception is given by the Department Head.

To be admitted to candidacy for a degree, a student must have been unconditionally admitted to graduate standing, and must have been approved by the major professor (academic advisor) and the Dean of the Graduate School for his particular major. The minimum pre-requisite is 12 semester hours of graduate credit over and above any entrance deficiencies or conditions.

A student who writes a master's thesis must register for this work, and the total registration for thesis credit must be equivalent to at least six semester hours of course work.

A student may be dropped from further study in the Graduate School if at any time their performance is considered unsatisfactory. The typical indicator of unsatisfactory performance is a cumulative grade point average less than 2.85 for 15 or more graduate course hours after having been warned in a previous semester that their cumulative graduate GPA is below 2.85. Students who are placed on academic probation must immediately file with their major advisor and the graduate program coordinator a written plan to improve their performance such that they will be removed from probationary status in the next semester.

Residency Requirements

The candidate must be in residence a minimum of 24 weeks. A total of 12 weeks of residence or 12 semester hours of approved study may be accepted for residence credit from the University of Arkansas off-campus graduate Resident Centers. Acceptance of transferred credit does not reduce the minimum residence requirement of 24 weeks.

Transfer Credits

The University of Arkansas will permit students to transfer up to 6 hours of graduate credit from another recognized graduate school in the United States as part of their master's program,³ provided that the grades on the courses are "B" (3.0 out of 4.0) or better and the subjects are acceptable to the Department. This does not, however, reduce the minimum requirement of 24 weeks' residence for the master's degree as set by State law. More information can be found here: <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/transfer-credit-master.pdf>

Comprehensive Examinations

The candidate must take a comprehensive written or oral examination. The oral examination, which is for thesis students only, is conducted by the major academic advisor and a committee approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

All non-thesis students must pass a comprehensive, two-hour written exam only after the completion of AGEC 51003 and AGEC 54003. The comprehensive written exam is only to be taken in person during normal university work hours.

Students who enter the domestic non-thesis program will follow these procedures:

- Students must answer four questions:
 - Part I consists of questions associated with the materials presented in AGEC 51003 and AGEC 54003. Students must answer both questions.

³ An exception is the Atlantis Program where students are allowed to transfer a maximum of 15 hours of graduate credit earned during the Program from the European consortium universities.

- Part II consists of three questions, each related to the marketing, finance/management and policy courses. Students must answer two questions, each from different areas. That is a student cannot choose two questions from one area. For example, a student cannot choose two policy questions, but instead he/she must choose a question from the policy area and one other area.
- Students are only allowed to answer questions for classes they completed for credit during their graduate studies. If a student took a split-level course during their undergraduate studies at the University of Arkansas, they are not permitted to answer that question on the comprehensive exam

Students who enter the international agribusiness non-thesis concentration will follow these procedures:

- Students must answer four questions:
 - Part I consists of a question associated with the materials presented in AGECE 54003 Quantitative Methods of Agribusiness. Students must answer this question.
 - Part II consists of two questions, one each related to AGECE 53003 Agricultural Marketing Theory and AGECE 42403/54103 Agribusiness Strategy. Students must answer one of these questions.
 - Part III consists of three questions each related to courses in the finance/management, policy and marketing or agribusiness strategy areas not answered in Part II. Students must answer two questions, each from different areas. That is a student cannot choose two questions from one area. For example, a student cannot choose two policy questions, but instead he/she must choose a question from policy and one from either finance/management, marketing or agribusiness strategy as long as the question was *not* answered in Part II.
 - Students are only allowed to answer questions for classes they completed for credit during their graduate studies. If a student took a split-level course during their undergraduate studies at the University of Arkansas, they are not permitted to answer that question on the comprehensive exam.

The comprehensive exam is given the Friday of finals week at the end of the fall and spring semesters and in August (on demand). The possible grades are: pass, marginal pass and fail. Students receiving a marginal pass may rewrite the marginal pass or failed areas on another examination that will be given three weeks after the original examination. Note, that if a rewrite is required, the results of the comprehensive exam will be announced after the University deadline for completing all degree requirements. Therefore, a student who completes a successful rewrite of the comprehensive exam will not be awarded the M.S. degree until the following semester. Students who fail the exam will have to wait until the next regularly scheduled examination for another attempt.

Students are only allowed to answer questions for courses they took for graduate credit.

Overall Exam Score Metrics:

Pass Score ≥ 1.75

Marginal Performance $1.74 \geq \text{Score} \geq 1.0$

Implies a retake on areas of poor performance, which are on questions with a score(s) less than 2.0. Students who score less than a 2.0 on any question must redo that topic question (which could be a different question based on the professor's preference) if their overall score is 1.74 or less. Students who score 1.0-1.74 have the option to retake the exam within three weeks or they can wait until the next semester. Upon retaking the exam, if the new scores on the questions which required a retake (<2.0) are high enough to bring the overall exam score ≥ 1.75 the student is considered to have passed the exam. If the new scores on the questions which

required a retake are not high enough to bring the total exam score ≥ 1.75 the student will again have to retake question(s) that were less than 2.0 when the exam is offered the next semester.

Fail Score <1.0

Anyone who scores less than 1.0 is required to wait until the next semester to retake the entire exam.

Grade Point Average

In order to receive a master's degree, a candidate must present a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.85 on all graduate courses required for the degree. Failing to earn such an average on the minimum number of hours, the student is permitted to present up to six additional hours of graduate credit in order to accumulate a grade-point average of 2.85. In the computation of grade point, all courses pursued at this institution for graduate credit that are part of the degree program (including any repeated courses) and the thesis (if offered) shall be considered. Students who repeat a course in an endeavor to raise their grade must count the repetition toward the maximum of six additional hours.⁴

DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Course Requirements

The course requirements for each of the four-degree program concentrations are contained in Appendix C. Degree program check sheets associated with those concentrations are on the Departmental Graduate Program website under Forms and Documents. In order for a course to be counted as an elective or for satisfying a course requirement, it must be listed in the *Graduate School Catalog* or, if the course is not listed, complete the form "Request for Graduate Credit for 3000 or 4000 Level Course," which requires the written consent of the instructor and the student's academic advisor and Graduate School approval. A grade of "C" or higher must be earned for the course to count in the student's program. This written consent should be obtained before the class begins. The graduate credit for 3000-level or 4000-level classes application form is available at https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/_resources/forms/registration/3000-4000-retro.pdf

Students are **discouraged** from taking dual-credit courses (co-taught at the undergraduate and graduate level) offered by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and most other departments.

The M.S. in Agricultural Economics degree program has a maximum limit of 6 credit hours that are offered as dual-credit with the approval of the GPC Chair and the student's academic advisor. Moreover, the student may not repeat a course that they have taken as an undergraduate and have it count toward the master's degree. This does not preclude the student from transferring graduate credit from other institutions for courses taken at such institutions while the student had graduate status (a maximum of 6 transfer credits can count toward your AGECMS degree).

Each semester, students are required to complete the Proposed Class Schedule form:

https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/Grad_Proposed_Class_Schedule.pdf (also available from the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness' Graduate Program website) to gain approval by both the advisor and Graduate Committee Chair. Appendix C-7 and C-8 provide information about all available graduate credit

⁴ The Graduate School also requires a minimum of 2.85 including thesis units if such units are taken and awarded a letter grade.

courses in the department and the faculty who teach them, respectively. Any alteration of the above required courses or alterations to the Departmental requirements require a petition prepared by the student. See the section on Petitions.

Advisors and the Student's Examination Committee

Upon entering the program, a student will be assigned a temporary academic advisor. If the student has an assistantship the advisor will direct both the work under the assistantship as well as serve as the academic advisor. After the first semester, students should identify a faculty member to serve as their permanent academic advisor. Usually this faculty member serves as both their thesis advisor and academic advisor. If the student is a graduate assistant in research, the thesis advisor will also direct the research to be done under the assistantship. In most instances this research will coincide with the research being performed for the thesis. If the student has a graduate assistantship and is teaching, then the thesis, academic or work (teaching) advisors need not necessarily be the same person.

It is possible for the academic and thesis advisor to be different persons, but this is usually not the most efficient arrangement. It is to be emphasized that the temporary academic advisor is exactly that. There is absolutely no expectation that students should make that person their permanent academic or thesis advisor. If the student chooses to do so, that is fine, but the student is equally free to select any other faculty member as long as there is mutual agreement between the student and faculty member.

For the purposes of the final oral examination, the student and their academic advisor must select at least two other members of the faculty to serve on the student's examination (Masters) committee.⁵ Once the additional two members consent to serve, the committee is submitted to the Department Head for approval. Upon approval the Department Head then recommends the committee to the Graduate School for approval and notifies the Graduate Program Committee (GPC) of his approval. All subsequent changes in the committee composition must be approved by the Graduate School. The Master's Committee form used by non-thesis students is discussed in Appendix D-1 is found at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/masters-committee.pdf>

The Master's Thesis Committee form used by thesis students is discussed in Appendix D-2 and is found at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/forms.php>

A student should exercise care in selecting a committee. In general, it is wise to select faculty members whose areas of expertise complement the other faculty members' areas of specialization in relation to the thesis topic or area of the student's disciplinary emphasis. Moreover, changing a committee once it is formed, or the student's advisor(s), requires the consent of the Department Head as well as the Graduate School. In general, such changes are approved so long as they serve to enhance the expertise of the committee for a given area and/or acknowledge the efforts of faculty members' contribution to the student's program of study and research. Students must form an examination committee led by a major advisor from the AEAB Department.

Timetable

⁵ If the academic and thesis advisors are different persons, the thesis advisor must be a member of the committee. Additionally, faculty members of the committee need not be solely from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

The graduate student's advisor will be responsible for assuring that funded students are involved in work for the department commensurate with their level of funding. All graduate students carrying at least a half-time course load (nine hours or more) must commit to a thesis concentration or non-thesis concentration by the beginning of the second regular semester of the master's program. A thesis topic should also be selected at this time if the student elects a thesis concentration. In practice, this means graduate students who enroll for the first time during the summer or at the beginning of the Fall semester are required to "commit" to either concentration by the beginning of the following Spring semester; graduate students who enroll for the first time at the beginning of the Spring semester need to "commit" by the beginning of the following Fall semester. Also, at the end of the first semester, the student must submit a list of those courses that will constitute his/her full course of study for the master's degree. The form naming the advisor is also used for listing the courses. This is the Graduate Program of Study Form. This course list is then evaluated by the GPC and approved or disapproved. Alterations may be made but must be approved by the advisor and GPC.

In those rare occasions where a change from thesis to non-thesis concentration is requested for a graduate research assistant after a commitment to the thesis concentration has been made, the Department Head, in consultation with the student and the thesis advisor, will determine a satisfactory work agreement for the balance of the student's program, but there is no guarantee that funding will continue.

All requirements for a master's degree must be satisfied within six consecutive calendar years from the date studies begin. A student does not need to be formally enrolled the semester of the thesis defense.

Special Problem Courses

No more than six hours of graduate credit may be earned in special problem courses. Graduate students funded by the department may be permitted by their advisor and the GPC to take up to six hours of coursework beyond prescribed program requirements but within the 37-hour maximum. Courses that are taken as deficiencies count against the six hours. While the academic and thesis advisors may approve a student to visit (audit) any class, which the faculty members and the student feel is directly applicable to the research areas, *audit hours* should be considered equivalent with *credit hours* in applying the six-hour limit.

Thesis Examination Committee and Thesis Title

A thesis student, in consultation with his/her academic advisor, shall select the members of the Examination Committee. At this time the title of the thesis should also be selected. These selections should be completed at least one semester prior to the comprehensive oral examination. **The names of the Examination Committee members and thesis title must be submitted to the Department Head and to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval at least three months prior to the comprehensive oral.** Electronic copies of these forms can be found at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/forms.php> and the final form is available at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/td-title.pdf>

Students who are following the thesis concentration should complete all of these forms (even though the committee members may be the same). As stated earlier, non-thesis concentration students need only complete the forms shown in Appendix D1, <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/masters-committee.pdf> and the current GPC members, in addition to their Academic Advisor, shall be the examination committee. *A duplicate of these completed forms should be submitted to support staff for the Departmental Graduate Programs Committee to be deposited in the student's file.*

Thesis Problem Selection

Although work on the thesis is the student's responsibility, he/she can expect guidance from his/her thesis advisor in selecting a topic. Formulation of objectives and procedures and the writing of a formal project proposal are important parts of the student's training. It is recommended that a project proposal be developed by the student under the direction of his/her thesis advisor and submitted to the thesis examination committee for approval prior to execution of the study.

Format for Reporting Thesis Research

There are two methods for reporting thesis research. One method is a formal document which outlines the nature of the original research undertaken, methodology utilized, literature consulted, results obtained, and their implications. Use the format from the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* when submitting a formal thesis document. An alternative is to write the thesis in a form more readily suitable for submission to a refereed academic journal. In writing the publication-oriented thesis, the student should have a particular publication outlet in mind and write the thesis so that preparation of the thesis for a publication can be done expeditiously.

In addition, the reporting of the thesis research is normally not considered complete until the student has produced:

- a manuscript summarizing either the major findings of the study or some aspect of the study such that the manuscript would be suitable for publication in an Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station outlet, or
- a manuscript worthy of submission for presentation to a regional or national group of scholars at academic meetings. For example, the annual meetings of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association or Southern Agricultural Economics Association would be acceptable scholarly meetings.

Ultimately, the thesis committee shall determine when such a manuscript is satisfactory.

It is imperative that all thesis students follow formatting guidelines set by the graduate school. The most recent guidelines require proof of permission to use copyrighted material and suggest review of all materials through plagiarism software. Failure to meet all Graduate School guidelines, <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/thesis-dissertation-guide.pdf>, can delay completion of thesis requirements. Questions regarding these procedures should be directed to the Graduate School.

Thesis Development

Preliminary Copies

When the thesis advisor believes that the thesis is in a form suitable for defense, copies shall be circulated to all members of the candidate's examination committee. *A cover letter or e-mail from the advisor will designate this copy as the official reader's copy and will state the time and location of the final oral exam.* Copies of this letter must be simultaneously sent to the Chair of the GPC and Department Head. No committee member will be expected to accept the readers' copy of the thesis later than *three weeks* prior to the scheduled examination date unless agreed upon by all committee members. Also, this committee must receive the thesis at least *three weeks* before the degree is to be conferred. The thesis must be submitted for approval to the thesis committee consisting of a minimum of three faculty members who have been approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. This committee must receive the thesis in time for the student to defend the thesis and submit it to the Graduate School at least two weeks before the degree is to be conferred:

<https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/thesis-dissertation-guide.pdf>

Final Copies

When the thesis is approved by the committee one electronic copy (or unbound hard copy) with the appropriate forms must be submitted to the Graduate School at gradtd@uark.edu at least **TWO (2) WEEKS before the degree is conferred.**

<https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/thesis-dissertation-info/graduation-checklist.php>

Master's Examination

The master's comprehensive examination must be passed, and thesis deposited at least ONE (1) WEEK BEFORE GRADUATION

It is expected that major suggestions of committee members will be incorporated into the thesis, subsequent to the examination. *Nonetheless, it is the responsibility of the student and the thesis advisor to see that the readers' copies are in acceptable final form prior to distribution to the examination committee.* The student's examination committee will decide on the acceptability of the completed thesis with regard to content and style after guidelines and requirements by the Graduate School have been met.

The final oral examination should be scheduled at least one month prior to any planned departure from the campus. This allows the student to have an opportunity to incorporate any final comments from the examination committee into the thesis and to submit the final copy of the thesis to the Graduate School for review. Information on completing your degree is found at:

<https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/graduate/current-students/thesis-dissertation-info/graduation-checklist.php>

Examination

For students selecting the thesis concentration, an oral examination will be administered by the candidate's examination committee after the thesis is deemed suitable for defense by the thesis advisor and all course requirements are fulfilled. The examination shall deal primarily with the student's thesis. However, any topic covered in the student's course of study is appropriate for the examination.

At the time of the oral examination it is the duty of the academic advisor to verify that the candidate has satisfied all the course requirements for the M.S. degree. In addition, the thesis advisor or committee chair shall bring the candidate's departmental file containing grade reports, undergraduate transcripts, and letters of admission to the oral examination. This file shall be circulated among the members of the examination committee. At the end of the oral examination, a vote is taken by the examination committee.

The committee can reach three verdicts: pass, recess, and fail. A pass can be conditional on the student making suggested changes in the thesis that will be verified by the thesis advisor and/or the examination committee. The recess verdict requires the student to revise the thesis and/or review and study relevant material for a continuation of the examination at a later date. The fail verdict means that the student has failed their defense and will not earn a M.S. degree under a thesis concentration. A student may petition to the graduate program committee to change their plan of study to a non-thesis concentration which will consist of additional course work. A verdict is determined by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the recommendation of the thesis advisor shall be the verdict. In the event of no majority or a tie, the Head shall meet with the examination committee and then determine either a verdict or an alternative course of action such as reconstitution of the

committee and a consequent reexamination of the candidate. *The academic advisor is responsible for reporting the decision of the committee to the Graduate School.*

Completion of Thesis

It is the responsibility of the student and the thesis advisor to assure that suggestions arising from the oral examination be satisfactorily resolved. Once the thesis advisor is satisfied with the thesis, Department Head or GPC Chair will complete the Degree Completion Certificate. Completed forms including 1) Approval Sheet for Master's Thesis in the Guide to Theses, 2) the Thesis/Dissertation Submission Form (available for downloading at <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/thesis-dissertation-submission.pdf>), 3) an Intellectual Property Disclosure <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/intellectual-property-disclosure.pdf> and 4) an *Abstract* should accompany the thesis. This information is available in the "Guide for Preparing Theses and Dissertations" available for downloading at <https://agricultural-education-communications-and-technology.uark.edu/resources/pdf/thesis-dissertation-guide2018.pdf> There is a graduation application fee.⁶ Master's theses will be submitted to UMI/ProQuest, and there is an \$85 fee for submission.⁷ One electronic copy of the thesis, completed form shall also be given to the Graduate support staff for deposit in the Department files. Upon deposition in the Department files it is the duty of the student to transfer copies of relevant computer files and documentation to the Head of Research Support. Finally, one pdf copy of the full thesis must be submitted to the Graduate Program support staff.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Evaluation

Each graduate student's progress is reviewed at the end of each semester and at the end of the summer by his or her academic advisor. This review of progress on research as well as review of academic progress is an integral part of maintaining an effective graduate program. The academic advisor shall inform the Department Head of any problems. The Head may, at the Head's discretion, refer the matter to the GPC for advice. In addition, an annual review as prescribed by the Graduate School is performed each April/May. More information can be found at the following website: <https://uark.sharepoint.com/sites/GSIE-Graduate-Students/Student%20Forms/Student%20Academic%20Progress%20Forms/gradstudentreview-masters.pdf?CT=1749582258792&OR=ItemsView>

Absences

Graduate students on a research funded assistantship appointment are expected to work approximately 20 hours a week at the direction and under the supervision of their thesis advisor. Semester calendars and university holiday information is provided in Appendix E. Aside from these scheduled breaks, students on RA appointment should clear any planned absence from work with their thesis advisor.

⁶ Fee amounts are subject to change, check Graduate School for latest fee. Atlantis students originating from European consortium universities are not required to pay this fee.

⁷ This fee is only necessary if student copyright's the thesis. Otherwise, there is no charge.

Access to Departmental Research Computer Laboratory

Graduate students may use the Departmental Computer Laboratories throughout their studies. Graduate students may request keys to the Department Computer Laboratories for evening and weekend use. Key cards can be obtained from the Departmental Office Manager (with prior permission from the Graduate Program Coordinator). Students can take these cards to the University Key Office to obtain the keys. Please note, the University will withhold the final diploma until all keys have been returned to the key office.

Assignment of Office Space

The Graduate Program Coordinator, assisted by the Departmental Office Manager, are responsible for the assignment of office space to graduate students. Funded assistantship students have first priority then seniority in the graduate program receives second priority in assignment of office space. Students interested in moving from their presently assigned space to a vacancy should contact the Chair of the GPC (Dr. Thompson). Computers and other lab accessories are not assigned to the graduate student, but to the space in which it is located. Space assignments will be announced at the start of Fall, Spring and Summer semesters by the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Support Assistance

Support staff in the department will (on a time-available basis) type official letters and other materials **as requested by the major advisor** for funded graduate students. Other requests must be approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator or Department Head.

Travel

All requests for permission to travel will be initiated by the student. The request for travel will also include an e-mail from the advisor indicating support for the travel. The lead time for Travel Spend Authorizations is now 3 weeks (the state requires airfare to be purchased within 2 weeks of travel, and it is impossible to meet that requirement without the lead time for the approval process).

Travel expenses should be submitted within 7 days of travel.

Travel reimbursement forms should be completed upon return from travel and given to support staff and copy the Accountant for submission. Rhonda Harton harton@uark.edu CC: Scott Mattke, smattke@uark.edu. Any off-campus travel by a graduate student funded on departmental funds for official University/Department business must be approved by the Department Head.

Petitioning

Invariably, situations arise that are not explicitly covered by departmental rules and regulations. Additionally, a student may request a variance to a given rule. To receive consideration for such requests, a student should prepare a petition stating his or her case. The student's academic advisor will indicate concurrence or non-concurrence on the petition. The petition is reviewed by the GPC and a recommendation by the GPC is made to the Head. The Head's decision is binding.

Orientation

The Department conducts an orientation meeting for new graduate students prior to the first full week of classes in the Fall and Spring semesters. The departmental orientation program acquaints the student with the many professional and social facets of graduate student life. Presentations are given by various department personnel. **All new graduate students are required to attend orientation.** One of the important features of the orientation meeting is that many of the questions that you will likely have as a first semester graduate student will be addressed. The Graduate School conducts an orientation the week before instruction begins in the fall and spring. **All new graduate students are also advised to attend this event.**

The Head or Chair of the GPC welcomes new students to graduate studies at the University of Arkansas, followed by an overview of the graduate program. Support staff for the GPC discusses payroll, terms of employment, specific forms, office space and other pertinent issues pertaining to their relationship with the main office. There will also be a brief presentation regarding the use of the Computer Lab and facilities in the Department and the University.

Registration

The university regulations regarding registration are found on the web at: <http://registrar.uark.edu/registration/registration-instructions.php>. Consult with your academic advisor before registering for classes each semester. This faculty member will assist you in planning and completing your first registration. Also, a senior graduate student is assigned as a mentor for additional assistance.

The load for a graduate student holding a graduate assistantship is from 6 hours (minimum) to 10 hours (maximum) per regular semester (teaching assistantships can take up to 13 hours) and 3-6 hours for summer school.

For semesters following your first registration you are encouraged to register during advanced registration week (usually the first week of November for spring and first week of April for summer and fall terms). **If you are on assistantship, and taking more than ten hours a semester, you must contact our accountant (Scott Mattke smattke@uark.edu) so that a tuition waiver can be processed for you. The student still must pay the fees but not the tuition.**

APPENDICES

The remainder of this handbook contains samples of course requirements, check sheets, faculty information, and important forms and calendars. ***All information is subject to change.*** Students are responsible to ensure they have the most current information available.

A-1 Expectations of Graduate Students

Welcome to graduate school! As one of our graduate students in the traditional thesis program, traditional non-thesis program, Atlantis thesis program or International Agribusiness non-thesis program, these are some expectations of all graduate students, and special expectations that may be associated with a particular program.

In AEAB we expect our graduate students to be:

Academically Focused: Graduate coursework is more specialized and rigorous than at the undergraduate level. While course loads may be lighter, expectations are higher. Students are responsible for engaging fully—attending class, participating actively, and staying prepared through independent study. Faculty will facilitate the learning process, but students are responsible for actively engaging with the material. Students are expected to take ownership of their programs and to come to class fully prepared.

Intellectually Curious: Graduate study across all disciplines emphasizes the importance of independent learning. Students are expected to actively seek opportunities for learning outside of the classroom to deepen their understanding and professional development including attending department or university seminars, engaging in research development through coursework or independent projects, and presenting research at academic or professional meetings.

Engaged in the AEAB Community: Graduate students are encouraged to collaborate with peers and build connections with faculty. Social and academic gatherings throughout the year offer opportunities for personal and professional growth.

In Charge of Degree Progress: Each student is assigned an academic advisor and thesis students will be assigned a thesis advisor. Additionally, the graduate program administrative support assistant and graduate program chair are available to help clarify program and university policies. While these individuals are valuable resources, ***students are ultimately responsible for meeting all degree requirements***. This includes reading the AEAB Handbook, proactively selecting courses, making progress on thesis work, and staying in regular communication with advisors and program staff. Students are encouraged to reach out to the graduate program coordinator with any questions or concerns (academic or otherwise).

These expectations are discussed during the AEAB Graduate Orientation program where students will have the opportunity to ask questions and attest to their understanding of these expectations by signing this form.

Graduate school will differ from your undergraduate experience and bring new challenges both in and out of the classroom. There may be times when you feel overwhelmed, but we believe you are capable of success. While it may feel overwhelming at times, you are capable of success. Along the way, you'll gain valuable skills, discover new professional interests, and build lasting relationships. You'll leave with a strong sense of accomplishment and be well prepared for your next step.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Rhonda Harton	HEI Coordinator/Support Staff	479-575-5907 harton@uark.edu
Dr. Jada Thompson	Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair	479-575-2323 jt074@uark.edu

Expectations of Graduate Students Signature Form

I have read, understood and agree to the policies put forth in this document by AEAB. Failure to comply with these rules can jeopardize completion of the MS in Agricultural Economics program.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Graduate Coordinator Printed Name

Graduate Coordinator Signature

Date

B-1 Expectations for the Teaching Assistants

The Teaching Assistant (TA) is a twelve-month position that begins approximately mid-August and runs through the following twelve months. During this time the TA is expected to work 20 hours per week for the Department. In return the TA will receive a monthly stipend and tuition for up to 31 hours in the non-thesis program.

The Department has set the following expectations for the TA

1. **Student Privacy (FERPA Compliance)** TAs must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Student information must not be shared with anyone not authorized by the student's FERPA release form. For more information refer to: [FERPA for Faculty and Instructors](#).
2. **Communication with Instructor** TAs should maintain regular and open communication with your assigned instructor. At the beginning of the semester, you should agree upon the following responsibilities:
 - a. class attendance: frequency and expectations
 - b. office hours: number and timing
 - c. review sessions: quantity and schedule
 - d. exam proctoring: dates and responsibilities
 - e. grading: types of assignments and expected turnaround
 - f. grade entry: process and frequency
 - g. lecturing: expectations in the instructor's absence
3. **Grading Environment** Do not grade in public areas. TAs are assigned space in AGRI 228 to facilitate grading and meeting with students. Conference rooms may also be reserved but has limited availability. through office staff. Reservations should be made with office staff. TAs are welcome to grade from home but extra care should be used in transporting student work.
4. **Course Availability** TAs are expected to be available during the regularly scheduled course time, regardless of whether or not the Instructor has requested attendance. ***You may be called upon at last minute to fill in if an instructor is unavailable for class.***
5. **Travel and Leave** TAs must receive permission from the Instructor and the Graduate Coordinator before travelling during the semester. TAs are expected to meet all deadlines, so advanced planning and clear communication are essential.
6. **Special Assignments** The Department Head and/or Graduate Coordinator may assign special projects to a TA to help fulfill the mission of the department. The TA is expected to complete these tasks during the designated time or make arrangements with the Head/Coordinator to change the schedule.
7. **Reporting Issues** Any job-related concerns or difficulties should be reported immediately to the Department Head and/or Graduate Coordinator to allow for a timely resolution.
8. **Summer Assignments** During the summer, TAs are typically assigned research duties. Please see the *Expectations of Research Assistants* for further details.

The Department has set the following expectations for Instructors

1. **Official Communication** Instructors should obtain the TA's preferred email address– ideally their university issued email– for all course-related communication. This email should be used for all official correspondence between the TA, instructor, and students.
2. **FERPA Guidance** Instructors are expected to assist TAs with any FERPA-related questions related to a student in the class. If the Instructor is unsure how to proceed, the TA should be immediately referred to the Dean's office for clarification.
3. **Clarifying TA Responsibilities** Instructors should clearly communicate the expectations of the TA (see 2 above).
4. **Grading Support** Instructors should, in a timely manner, provide all necessary grading materials including answer keys and clear instructions regarding grading philosophy and standard. Deadlines for returning graded work should be clearly communicated.
5. **Class Coverage** If a TA is not required to attend class regularly, Instructors are expected to give as much advanced warning as possible when asking the TA to attend or assist with class activities.
6. **Support During Absences** Instructors are expected to work with the TA as much as possible should the TA need to be away from duties for a legitimate reason.
7. **Additional Assignment** Instructors may suggest additional tasks for TAs that fall within the Teaching mission of the Department. These assignments must be approved by Department Head and/or Graduate Coordinator.
8. **Reporting Issues** Instructors are expected to report any concerns or challenges experienced with the TA to the Department Head and/or Graduate Coordinator immediately to ensure appropriate resolution.

Expectations for the Teaching Assistant Positions Signature Form

I have read and understand all expectations for teaching assistants. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in loss of the graduate assistantship at any time.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Graduate Coordinator Printed Name

Graduate Coordinator Signature

Date

B-2 Expectations for the Research Assistants

The Research Assistant position is awarded to students pursuing the MS thesis program. During this time the RA is expected to work 20 hours per week for a major advisor and the Department. In return the RA will receive a monthly stipend and tuition for the agreed number of credit hours.

The Department has set the following expectations for the RA

1. **Work Schedule:** RAs are university employees and are expected to work during academic breaks even when classes are not in session (e.g., spring, winter break). Work schedules align with university holidays, not class schedules.
2. **Location:** Unless authorized by your supervisor, you are expected to work on campus, this includes summer and class break periods.
3. **Communication with Supervisor:** Open and regular communication with your assigned work supervisors. At the beginning of the semester, you should agree on the following:
 - a. weekly work hours
 - b. physical location of RA during those office hours
 - c. assigned tasks
 - d. performance review criteria
4. **Workload Expectation:** If your assigned supervisor does not to assign 20 hours of work each week, the Department may assign you additional tasks that help fulfill the mission of other faculty or the Department.
5. **Leave and Travel:** The RA must receive prior approval from the work supervisor for travel and/or take personal leave. RAs are expected to meet work deadlines, so plan accordingly and communicate in advance.
6. **Reporting Issues:** Any issues or concerns related to you RA should be reported to the Department Head and/or Graduate Coordinator immediately to ensure timely resolution.
7. **Teaching Assignment:** Ras, especially in their first year, may be asked to perform teaching assistant duties. Refer to the *Expectations of Teaching Assistants* for those guidelines.

Expectations for the Research Assistants Positions Signature Form

I have read and understand all expectations for research assistants. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in loss of the graduate assistantship at any time.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Graduate Coordinator Printed Name

Graduate Coordinator Signature

Date

C-1 Pre-Requisites for the Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics

A number of pre-requisite courses may be assigned as deficiencies for applicants who have not had training in specified areas. Pre-requisites for the traditional thesis concentration are higher than those for the other concentrations (agribusiness, Atlantis, international agribusiness, double law) and reflect a more quantitative and theoretical emphasis. Pre-requisite courses for admission into the M.S. program in agricultural economics.

Pre-Requisites (Semester Hours) by Concentration ^a			
Domestic Thesis Concentration	Domestic Non-Thesis Concentration	Atlantis Program Concentration	International Agribusiness Concentration
College Algebra, 3hrs	College Algebra, 3hrs	College Algebra or above, 3 hrs	College Algebra, 3hrs
Survey of Calculus or higher-level Calculus, 3 hrs	Survey of Calculus or higher-level Calculus, 3 hrs	Other Math, 3 hrs	Survey of Calculus or higher-level Calculus, 3 hrs
Statistics, 3 hrs	Statistics, 3 hrs	Statistics, 3 hrs	Statistics, 3 hrs
Intermediate Microeconomics, 3 hrs	Principles of Microeconomics, 3 hrs	Economic Principles, 3 hrs	Principles of Microeconomics, 3 hrs
Upper-level Management, 3 hrs	Principles of Macroeconomics, 3 hrs	6 hrs of Ag Economics, Rural Development, Social Sciences, or Agriculture and Agribusiness-related courses	Principles of Macroeconomics, 3 hrs
Upper-level Marketing, 3 hrs	Upper level Management, 3 hrs		Upper level Management, 3 hrs
Introductory Accounting, 3 hrs	Upper level Marketing, 3 hrs		Upper level Marketing, 3 hrs
	Introductory Accounting, 3 hrs		Introductory Accounting, 3 hrs

^a Students participating in the double LLM or double JD program must follow the pre-requisites of the selected agricultural economics concentration

Note: "Upper level" and "intermediate" refers to junior and senior level classes. "Principles" courses are typically lower level (freshman, sophomore) courses. Applicants who are assessed these pre-requisite courses as deficiencies will be required to enroll in these courses early in their M.S. program. Deficiency courses typically lengthen the time to complete the M.S. degree and they do not count for graduate credit.

**C-2 Thesis Concentration Requirements
for the MS in Agricultural Economics**

(1) Thesis Concentration Core Courses: 16 semester credit hours

- 3 hrs AGEC 51003 Agricultural Microeconomics (fall)
- 3 hrs AGEC 54003 Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness (fall)
- 3 hrs AGEC 56103 Econometrics (spring)
- 6 hrs AGEC 6000V Thesis
- 1 hr AGEC 50101 Seminar (fall)

(2) Thesis Concentration Elective Courses: 15 semester credit hours

- 6 hrs Other AGEC graduate courses
- 9 hrs Any combination of courses for graduate credit, for example, AGEC, ECON, WCOB, or Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences (AFLS), deemed appropriate by the student's advisory committee

(3) Thesis Concentration Total Hours: 31

(4) Thesis Concentration: Other Requirements

- 22 hrs Minimum credit hours in Agricultural Economics (AGEC)
- 6 hrs Maximum dual-credit course (5000 level class taught concurrently with a 4000 level course) hours which may be taken for graduate credit. Certain 3000 level classes may also be used towards this dual-credit level maximum.

**C-3 Non-Thesis Concentration Requirements
for the MS in Agricultural Economics**

(1) Non-Thesis Agribusiness Concentration Core Courses: 19 semester credit hours

- 3 hrs AGEC 51003 Agricultural Microeconomics (fall)
- 3 hrs AGEC 54003 Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness (fall)
- 3 hrs Choose one marketing course from:
 - AGEC 53003 Agricultural Marketing Theory (fall)
 - AGEC 41103/51103 Agricultural Prices and Forecasting (spring)
 - AGEC 43003/52003 Agribusiness Marketing Management (spring)
 - AGEC 43703/50703 Basis Trading: Applied Price Risk Management (spring, summer)
 - AGEC 43803/50803 Basis Trading: Case Study (fall)
 - AGEC 46003/56003 Food Economics and Health (inactive)
- 3 hrs Choose one finance/management course from:
 - AGEC 51403 Financial Management in Agriculture (fall)
 - AGEC 41403/50403 Agricultural Finance (fall)
 - AGEC 43103/52103 Agricultural Business Management (fall)
 - AGEC 43203/51203 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship (spring)
 - AGEC 44003/50503 Advanced Farm Business Management (fall)
 - AGEC 42403/54103 Agribusiness Strategy (inactive)
- 6 hrs Choose two public sector/policy courses from:
 - AGEC 51303 Agricultural and Environmental Resource Economics (spring)
 - AGEC 51503 The Economics of Public Policy (inactive)
 - AGEC 56203 Quantitative Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis (fall)
 - AGEC 41603/50603 Agricultural and Rural Development (spring)
 - AGEC 46103/52303 Political Economy of Agriculture and Food (fall)
 - AGEC 46203/52203 International Agricultural Trade and Commercial Policy (fall)
 - AGEC 46003/56003 Food Economics and Health (inactive)
- 1 hr AGEC 50101 Seminar (fall)

(2) Non-Thesis Concentration Electives: Choose 12 hours from

- AGEC 5030V Internship in Agricultural Economics (1-3 hours)
- Graduate Courses in Agricultural Economics (AGEC)
- Graduate Courses in the Walton College of Business (WCOB)
- Other Graduate Courses at the UA, e.g., the Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences

(3) Non-Thesis Concentration Total Hours: 31

(4) Non-Thesis Concentration: Other Requirements

- 19 hrs Minimum credit hours in Agricultural Economics (AGEC)
- 6 hrs Maximum dual-credit course (5000 level class taught concurrently with a 4000 level course) hours which may be taken for graduate credit. Certain 3000 level classes may also be used towards this dual-credit level maximum.

C-4 Atlantis Program Concentration Requirements for the MS in Agricultural Economics

Participation in this two-year program includes students originated at the University of Arkansas and students originated at a consortium of six universities in Europe (Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium; Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; National Institute of Advanced Training and Research in Food and Agronomy (Agrocampus Ouest), Rennes, France; University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy; the Slovak University of Agriculture, Nitra, Slovak Republic; University of Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain). The program includes five academic terms (four semesters and one summer). US students enroll for at least two terms at the University of Arkansas and for at least two terms at two universities in the European consortium. EU students enroll for at least two terms at two universities in the European consortium and at least two terms at the University of Arkansas. Study in both the US and EU includes three semesters of graduate coursework, completion of a case study during the summer, and one semester of joint thesis research supervised by US and EU faculty. All coursework is in English in both the US and EU. Class enrollment for all students remains at their home university. UA students earn credit for AGEC 5020V Special Topics for courses taken at EU universities. Upon successful completion of the program, students receive an M.S. degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas, and a joint M.S. degree in rural development from the consortium of EU universities.

(1) Atlantis Program Core Requirements: 16 hours in the following areas

- 3 hrs Quantitative Analysis or Research Methods
- 3 hrs Management or Marketing
- 3 hrs Policy or Analysis of Public Sector Issues
- 6 hrs AGEC 6000V Thesis
- 1 hr AGEC 50101 Seminar

(2) Atlantis Program Controlled Electives: Choose 15 hours from

- Other graduate courses in Agricultural Economics
- Other graduate courses approved by the student's advisory committee

(3) Atlantis Program Total Hours: 31

(4) Atlantis Program: Other Requirements

- 16 hrs Minimum of 16 hours in Agricultural Economics
- 15 hrs Maximum of 15 hours of transfer courses from an inventory of classes offered in the Atlantis consortium of EU universities to satisfy core requirements and/or controlled electives
- 6 hrs Maximum dual-credit course (5000 level class taught concurrently with a 4000 level course) hours which may be taken for graduate credit. Certain 3000 level classes may also be used towards this dual-credit level maximum.

**C-5 International Agribusiness Concentration Requirements
for the MS in Agricultural Economics**

Participation includes a semester at the University of Arkansas and a semester at the Ghent University in Belgium. Summer may be spent completing an internship, special problem, or other coursework. Enrollment remains at the home institution. UA students earn credits in AGECE 5020V Special Topics for courses taken at the Ghent University.

(1) International Concentration Courses taken at University of Arkansas: 16 semester credit hours

- 3 hrs AGECE 51003 Agricultural Microeconomics (fall)
- 3 hrs AGECE 54003 Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness (fall)
- 3 hrs AGECE 42403/54103 Agribusiness Strategy (irr)
- 3 hrs Choose one marketing course from:
 - AGECE 53003 Agricultural Marketing Theory (fall)
 - AGECE 43003/52003 Agricultural Business Marketing Management (spring)
- 3 hrs Choose one finance/management course from:
 - AGECE 51403 Financial Management in Agriculture (fall)
 - AGECE 43103/52103 Agricultural Business Management (fall)
 - AGECE 44003/50503 Advanced Farm Business Management (spring)
- 3 hrs Choose one public sector/policy course from:
 - AGECE 51503 Economics of Public Policy (inactive)
 - AGECE 46203/52203 International Agricultural Trade and Commercial Policy (fall)
 - AGECE 51303 Agricultural and Environmental Resource Economics (spring)
 - AGECE 46003/56003 Food Economics and Health (irr)
 - AGECE 56203 Quantitative Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis (fall)
- 1 hr AGECE 50101 Seminar (fall)

(2) International Concentration Courses taken at Ghent University, Belgium: Equivalent of 12 semester hours (approximately four or five courses). All courses have the AGECE 5020V course number. Please see check sheet for current list of available courses.

(3) Non-Thesis International Concentration Electives: Choose 3 hours from

- AGECE 5030V Internship in Agricultural Economics (1-3 hours)
- Other graduate courses in Agricultural Economics (AGECE)
- Graduate courses in the Walton College of Business
- Other graduate courses

(4) Non-Thesis International Concentration Total Hours: 31

(5) Non-Thesis International Concentration: Other Requirements

- 16 hrs Minimum credit hours in Agricultural Economics (AGECE)
- 6 hrs Maximum dual-credit course (5000 level class taught concurrently with a 4000 level course) hours which may be taken for graduate credit. Certain 3000 level classes may also be used towards this dual-credit level maximum.

C-6 Double MS/LLM or MS/JD Concentration Requirements for the MS in Agricultural Economics

Because of the close complementarities in the study of agricultural and food law and agricultural economics, the University of Arkansas offers a program whereby a student with a law degree (J.D. or L.L.B.) can obtain both an LL.M. in agricultural and food law and an M.S. in agricultural economics in fewer courses than if they were to take both programs separately. The double degree program is set up for students to take the LL.M. and the agribusiness non-thesis concentration in agricultural economics. (With proper petitioning in both the Agricultural and Food Law program and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, a student could select the thesis concentration but this must be arranged on an individual basis.)

The crux of the program is that four courses (12 semester credit hours) the student takes count for credit towards fulfilling the requirements of both programs. Thus, a semester is saved instead of doing each program individually.

This double degree program is currently under review with both the Law School and the Graduate School. Please consult the AEAB Graduate Program Coordinator for its current status and availability.

Additionally, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness and the Law School are seeking to establish a new double degree program for students pursuing an M.S. in Agricultural Economics and a J.D. in Law. Please consult the AEAB Graduate Program Coordinator for current status and availability.

Maximum dual-credit course (4000 level or 5000 level class taught concurrently with a 4000 level course) hours which may be taken for graduate credit. Certain 3000 level classes may also be used towards this 4000 level maximum.

C-7 Graduate Credit Courses in Agricultural Economics

AGEC 41103/51103 Agricultural Prices and Forecasting (Sp) J. Mitchell

Price theory and techniques for predicting price behavior of general economy and price behavior of individual agricultural products will be analyzed. Provides practice in the application of economics and statistics to agricultural price analysis. Lecture 2 hours, laboratory 2 hours per week. Prerequisite: AGECE 11003 (or ECON 22003), AGECE 24003 (or introductory statistics), and MATH 20503.

AGEC 41603/50603 Agricultural and Rural Development (Sp) Faculty

Examination of agricultural and rural development issues in less developed countries. Alternative agricultural production systems are compared, development theories examined, and consideration given to the planning and implementation of development programs. Prerequisite: AGECE 11003 (or ECON 22003).

AGEC 42403/54103 Agribusiness Strategy (Sp) Faculty

Addresses problems of strategy formulation in agribusiness emphasizing current problems and cases in agriculture. Surveys modern and classic perspectives on strategy with applications to agribusiness. Examines the development of firm level strategies within the structure and competitive environment of agricultural firms and industries. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 43103/52103 Agricultural Business Management (Fa) A. Anderson

The planning, organizing, leading and controlling functions of management as they relate to agricultural business firms. Marketing of value-added products, budgeting, organizational structure, cost control, financial statements, capital budgeting and employee supervision and motivation. Case studies are used to teach communication and decision-making skills. Prerequisite: AGECE 21403 or equivalent, AGECE 23003 or equivalent; senior standing recommended.

AGEC 43203/51203 AgriBusiness Entrepreneurship (Sp) Faculty

Agribusiness entrepreneurship is the process of bringing food or rural-based products and services from conceptualization to market. The course presents the opportunities, problems and constraints facing individuals and firms operating in rural or isolated markets while emphasizing the steps in conceptualization, development, marketing, and delivery-selling of agribusiness rural products. Prerequisite: AGECE 11003 or equivalent (or ECON 22003).

AGEC 43703/50703 Basis Trading: Advanced Price Risk Management (Sp, Su) Staff (Online)

This course provides students an opportunity to gain a detailed working knowledge of how basis trading concepts and practices are applied to agricultural markets and to develop a skill set that can be put immediately into practice in any basis trading operation. Prerequisite: AGECE 33703 or consent of instructor.

AGEC 43803/50803 Basis Trading: Case Study (Fa) A. McKenzie

This course provides an opportunity to apply principles learned in AGECE 43703 to grain merchandising using the case study approach. Prerequisite: AGECE 43703.

AGEC 44003/50503 Advanced Farm Business Management (Fa) M. Popp

Principles and procedures of decision making as applied to the allocation of resources in the farm business for profit maximization. Emphasis is placed on use of principles of economics and their application to the decision-making process. Includes exercises on the application of principles to specific farm management problems. Prerequisites: AGECE 34003 and AGME 29003 or equivalent.

AGEC 46003/56003. Food Economics and Health (irr) Faculty

This course provides an advanced overview of selected topics in food economics, food and nutrition policy and the interface between nutrition programs and health policy. Students will develop an understanding of economic and policy concepts of food, nutrition, and health. The course emphasizes analytical tools that can be applied to study issues in food, nutrition, and health facing the US and world populations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

AGEC 46203/52203 International Agricultural Trade and Commercial Policy (fall) J. Thompson

Analysis of agricultural market competition and performance in a global economy. The impact of domestic and international agricultural policies on domestic and international markets and welfare. Economic principles applied to the interaction of economic events in the world food economy. Prerequisites: (AGEC 11003 or ECON 22003) and (AGEC 21003 or ECON 21003).

AGEC 5000V Special Problems (Sp, Su & Fa) (1-3 hours) AEAB Faculty

Individual reading and investigation of a special problem in agricultural economics not available under regular courses, under the supervision of the graduate faculty. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Instructor consent required.

AGEC 50101 Seminar (Fa) L. Nalley, S. Ahn

Presentation and discussion of graduate student research. Formal presentations are made by all graduate students. Consideration given to research design, procedures, and presentation of results. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 5020V Special Topics (Irregular) (1-3 hours) AEAB Faculty

Advanced studies of selected topics in agricultural economics not available in other courses. Prerequisite: graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

AGEC 5030V Internship in Agricultural Economics (Sp, Su, Fa) (1-3 hours) E. Park

On-the-job application of skills developed in the M.S. program. Instructor consent required.

AGEC 51003 Agricultural Microeconomics (Fa) Q. Huang

Masters-level training in agricultural microeconomic theory and its application to food, agriculture and the environment. The course covers behavior of firms, households and markets, in more depth and rigor than encountered in undergraduate courses. Theories are explained and then applied to relevant food, agricultural, environment and resource issues. Prerequisites: Survey of calculus or equivalent; Graduate standing. Students are encouraged to take intermediate microeconomics in preparation for this course.

AGEC 51303 Agricultural and Environmental Resource Economics (Irr) Faculty

An economic approach to problems of evaluating private and social benefits and costs of altering the environment. Emphasis is given to the interaction of individuals, institutions and technology in problems of establishing and maintaining acceptable levels of environmental quality. Prerequisite: Minimum of 3 hours Agricultural Economics or Economics at 3000 level or higher or PhD standing.

AGEC 51403 Financial Management in Agriculture (Fa) B. Ahrendsen

Covers advanced topics in agricultural finance. The general focus of the course is the financial management of firms. Covers the basic tools of financial analysis including financial arithmetic, asset evaluation under risk, and financial analysis and planning using econometric models. Such topics covered include management of current assets, capital budgeting, capital structure, and institutions involved in agricultural finance. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 51503 The Economics of Public Policy (Sp) L. Connor

This class will examine the impact of public policy on agricultural and other business sectors as well as households and individuals, particularly in rural areas. Emphasis will also be placed on analyzing the potential impact of future policy changes. The course will focus on the application of welfare criteria and economic analyses to the problems and policies affecting resource adjustments in agriculture and rural communities. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 53003 Agricultural Marketing Theory (Fa) B. McFadden

Survey of the structure of agricultural product and factor markets including a critique of theoretical analyses of industry structure, conduct and performance; and a review of market structure research in agricultural industries. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 54003 Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness (Fa) J. Thompson

Application of quantitative techniques used to support managerial decision-making and resource allocation in agricultural firms. Provides exposure to mathematical and statistical tools (regression analysis, mathematical programming, simulation) used in economic analysis in agriculture. Emphasis is placed on computer applications with conceptual linkage to economic theory. Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 56103 Econometrics (Sp) E. Park

Use of economic theory and statistical methods to estimate economic models. The single equation model is examined emphasizing multicollinearity, autocorrelation, heteroskedasticity, binary variables and distributed lags and model specification. Same as ECON 5613. Prerequisite: MATH 2043 and knowledge of matrix methods, (which may be acquired as a corequisite), and (AGEC 1103 or ECON 2023) and (AGEC 2403 or AGST 4023 or STAT 2303 or WCOB 1033).

AGEC 56203 Quantitative Food and Agricultural Policy Analysis (Fa) Durand-Morat

Introduction to applied analysis of domestic and international food and agricultural policies using quantitative tools. This course will provide hands-on experience with simulation modeling in microeconomics. An emphasis is placed on policy analysis through computer application with theoretical underpinnings. Prerequisite: (AGEC 5103 and 5403) or Instructor Consent.

AGEC 56403. Agricultural Data Science. (Irr) Faculty

Agricultural and environmental data gathering, wrangling, analysis, and visualization with emphasis on applied programming, version control, and analytical skills. This course provides students foundational and applied skills in constructing diverse cross-sectional and panel data sets for econometric investigation. Students should expect to learn and demonstrate competency in programming for data gathering, wrangling, analysis, and visualization. The course will cover common data sources, descriptive analysis, and econometric techniques used in agricultural and production economics. Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

AGEC 57103 Food Safety Law (Irr) (On-line)

This course provides students with an introduction to food law and policy, history of food regulation, the organization of federal food law and regulatory agencies, government inspection and enforcement powers, food safety standards, food labeling, food advertising and product liability.

AGEC 6000V Master's Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa) (1-6 hours) AEAB Faculty

Prerequisite: graduate standing.

AGEC 7000V Doctoral Dissertation (Sp, Su, Fa) (1-6 hours) AEAB Faculty, Prerequisite: candidacy.

C-8 Faculty, Staff and Instructors

Name (Degree, School)	Title Year Joined the Department	Area(s) of Specialization
Dr. Bruce L. Ahrendsen (Ph.D., North Carolina State)	Professor 1990	Agricultural Finance; Production Economics
Dr. Kristiina Ala-Lokko (Ph.D., Kansas State)	Assistant Professor 2025	Production economics, biotechnology, climate change, and international development
Dr. Andrew Anderson (Ph.D., Kansas State)	Assistant Professor 2023	Economics of Risk and Uncertainty, Applied Price Analysis, Behavioral Economics
Dr. Hunter Biram (Ph.D. Kansas City State)	Assistant Professor 2022	Risk Management; Crop insurance & Commodity programs
Dr. Lawson Connor (Ph.D. North Carolina State)	Assistant Professor 2021	Production Econ, Risk Analysis, Farm Finance, Conservation in Agriculture
Dr. Alvaro Durand-Morat (Ph.D. Arkansas)	Associate Professor 2016	Grain Economics-rice, International Trade; Food Policy
Dr. Shijun Gao (Ph.D., Arizona State)	Assistant Professor 2024	Consumer Behavior, Food Marketing, Impacts of Food Labeling, Experimental Economic Methods
Dr. Qiuqiong Huang (Ph.D., California–Davis)	Professor 2013	Natural Resource Economics; Development Economics; Applied Econometrics;
Dr. Nathan Kemper (Ph.D., Arkansas)	Associate Professor 2014	Marketing; Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Agri Bus Club & Academic Quiz Bowl Advisor
Dr. Ryan Loy (Ph.D. Oklahoma State Univ)	Assistant Professor 2023	Finance, Farm Management, Supply Chain Resilience, Value-added Marketing Channels
Dr. Brandon McFadden Ph.D. Oklahoma State Univ	Professor 2022	Tyson Chair in Food Policy Economics
Lauren Manning	Instructor	Ag Law
Dr. Andrew M. McKenzie (Ph.D., North Carolina State)	Professor 1998	Price Risk Management; Futures Markets
Dr. James Mitchell Ph.D., Oklahoma State)	Assistant Professor 2020	Livestock and Meat Economics, Commodity Markets, Price Analysis
Dr. L. Lanier Nalley (Ph.D., Kansas State)	Department Head 2024 Professor 2008	International Ag Policy, Production Economics; International Development
Dr. Eunchun Park (Ph.D. Oklahoma State)	Assistant Professor 2021	Risk Management, Commodity Futures and Options, Crop Insurance
Dr. Bruno Pinto (Ph.D., Nebraska-Lincoln)	Teaching Assistant Professor 2025	Agricultural Economics
Dr. Jennie S. Popp (Ph.D., Colorado State)	Professor 1998	Natural Resource Management; Agricultural Production; Sustainability Economics
Dr. Michael P. Popp (Ph.D., Colorado State)	Professor 1998	Risk Management, Agribusiness, Farm Management
Dr. Ronald Rainey (Ph.D., Arkansas)	Professor 2000	Risk Management, Marketing, Agribusiness, Specialty Crops
Dr. Jada Thompson (Ph.D. Colorado State)	Associate Professor 2022	Animal Health Economics, Poultry Economics, International Trade and Policy
Dr. K. Bradley Watkins (Ph.D., Oklahoma State)	Associate Professor 2002	Cropping Systems Economics; Production Economics, Rice and Soybeans

D-1 Important Forms for All Non-Thesis and International Agricultural Business Program Students

Below is a list of forms that are required of all MS students throughout their Graduate program.

Forms Needed Every Semester

1. **Proposed Class Schedule** – This form should be completed during the advising session each semester. Upon completing the form, the student must obtain signatures from both their major advisor and the graduate program coordinator. The signed form must be given to the Graduate Support Staff. This form can be downloaded from the following site:
2. https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/Grad_Proposed_Class_Schedule.pdf **Program Checksheet** – Blank checksheets are available for each program concentration on the AEAB website at <https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/checksheets-grads.php>
3. **Sequence of Formal Procedures** – This AEAB form is designed to assist graduate students in keeping abreast of all activities and paperwork required during their program. The form is distributed to students during orientation. <https://agribusiness.uark.edu/academics/graduates/forms-docs-grads.php>

One-Time Forms

1. **Master's Committee** – The Graduate School requires all students to have a program advisory committee. For NT and IAB students, this committee will consist of your academic advisor and two other faculty appointed by the AEAB Graduate Program Committee. Students must work with the Graduate Secretary to ensure this form is sent to the graduate school no later than the start of the student's second semester of study. The latest copy of this form may be downloaded from the Graduate School at <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/masters-committee.pdf>
2. **Exit Interview Survey** – All graduate students will conduct exit interviews with the Department Head at the end of their programs. Students will receive an email with a link to on-line exit interview survey that must be completed before the exit interview takes place. **You will not be cleared for graduation until this is complete.**
3. **Exit Checkoff** – All students must complete the AEAB Exit Checkoff form that certifies (with appropriate signatures) that the students have completed all required tasks before leaving campus. This completed form must be delivered to the Graduate Program Support Staff before the Degree Completion Certificate can be submitted. Students will be informed when the AEAB Exit Checkoff form is available for pick-up from the Graduate Support Staff during their last semester of study.
4. **Degree Completion Certificate** – The Degree Completion Certificate is completed by the Department Head or the GPC Chair by certifying completion of all degree requirements within the Degree Audit in UA Connect.

D-2 Important Forms for All Thesis and Atlantis Students

In addition to all the forms listed under D-1, Thesis students must also complete the following one-time Graduate School forms.

1. **Master's Thesis Committee** – In addition to their Thesis Chair, students must identify at least two additional committee members that meet all Graduate School and Program criteria. These members must also be approved by the Thesis Chair. For most thesis students, the thesis committee also serves as the program advisory committee. Graduate students must work with the Graduate Support Staff to get this form completed no later than the end of the second semester of their program. Please download the latest form from <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/masters-committee.pdf>
2. **Master's Thesis Title** - This form includes questions regarding both the thesis title and Research Committee Review requirements. Graduate students must work with the Graduate Program Secretary to get this form completed at least one semester prior to their proposed graduation date. Download the latest form from <https://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/td-title.pdf>
3. **Thesis Dissertation Submission Form** - Students must complete this form and submit it along with their thesis to the graduate School. The latest form can be downloaded from the Graduate School at <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/thesis-dissertation-submission.pdf>
4. **Intellectual Property Disclosure** - Thesis students must also complete the Intellectual Property Disclosure Form and submit with the thesis to the graduate School. This form may be found on the Graduate School website at <http://graduate-and-international.uark.edu/resources/forms/intellectual-property-disclosure.pdf>
5. **Exit Interview Survey** – All graduate students will conduct exit interviews with the Department Head at the end of their programs. Students will receive an email with a link to on-line exit interview survey that must be completed before the exit interview takes place. **You will not be cleared for graduation until this is complete.**
6. **Exit Checkoff** – All students must complete the AEAB Exit Checkoff form that certifies (with appropriate signatures) that the students have completed all required tasks before leaving campus. This completed form must be delivered to the Graduate Support Staff before the Degree Completion Certificate is submitted. Students will be informed when the AEAB Exit Checkoff form is available for pick-up from the Graduate Support Staff during their last semester of study.
7. **Degree Completion Certificate** – The Degree Completion Certificate is completed by the Department Head or the GPC Chair by certifying completion of all degree requirements within the Degree Audit in UA Connect.
8. Atlantis students may be required to complete additional forms and should consult with the Atlantis Program Coordinator at the University of Arkansas and the Atlantis Secretariat at the University of Ghent.

E-1 Important Calendars 2025-2026

Students can find links to all university calendars at <http://registrar.uark.edu/>

Calendars of particular interest may include:

<http://registrar.uark.edu/academic-dates/academic-semester-calendar/index.php>

Final Examination Schedule – look for final exam schedule on the registrar’s website

<https://registrar.uark.edu/registration/final-exam-schedule/index.php>

Holiday Schedule – Holiday Schedule – <https://benefits.uasys.edu/work-life/holiday-leave/>

The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, will observe the following holidays during the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

1.	Independence Day
2.	Labor Day
3.	Thanksgiving Day
4.	Thanksgiving Holiday*
5.	Christmas Eve (observed)
6.	Christmas Day
7.	In lieu of Veteran's Day
8.	In lieu of employee's birthday
9.	Charged to annual leave
10.	Charged to annual leave
11.	New Year's Day
12.	Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday
13.	Friday of Spring break, in lieu of Presidents' Day/Daisy Gatson Bates Day
14.	Memorial Day

*If approved by Governor

When a holiday (except December 25) falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed; when December 25 falls on a Saturday, the following Monday is observed. When a holiday (except December 24) falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is observed.

All regular salaried and non-student extra help employees are eligible to receive holiday pay provided they are in paid status the last scheduled work day before the holiday and the first scheduled work day after the holiday, in accordance with Arkansas Code Ann. §1-5-104.

Employees who work less than full-time may take the holiday at a rate proportionately equal to their time worked. For example, if an employee works half-time, a holiday would be granted equivalent to four (4) hours.