

HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES

in

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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

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Foreword

This handbook is designed to serve as a reference for graduate students, providing information on degree requirements, regulations, and departmental policies that apply to graduate study in Agricultural Economics at Louisiana State University. This handbook supplements information in the LSU General Catalog and Graduate Bulletin. The current issue of the Graduate Bulletin may be obtained from the Graduate School, 134 David Boyd Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Graduate students assume full responsibility for knowledge of rules and regulations of both the Graduate School and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Relevant information is available at the following websites.

For Louisiana State University at: <http://www.lsu.edu/>

For the LSU Graduate School at: <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/graduateschool/>

For the Department of Agricultural Economics at: <http://www.lsu.edu/agriculture/agecon/>

For the Graduate Program of the Department: <http://www.lsu.edu/agriculture/agecon/graduate/>

HANDBOOK of GRADUATE STUDIES in AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

I. Introduction

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University offers graduate studies conducted under the direction of departmental Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station scientists who are actively engaged in research (Appendix A). Research areas include international trade, agricultural business, agricultural policy, marketing, econometrics, operations research, natural resource and environmental economics, farm management, finance, community and rural development, and production economics.

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

II. Admissions

LSU assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, or veteran's status. Application deadlines for the Graduate School are May 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, and May 15 for summer term. In addition, there is a priority date, January 25, for the fall semester. Submission of required material by the priority date helps ensure full consideration for scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships. A *non-refundable* application fee must accompany the application. There is a late fee for applications received after the deadline. There

are no late fees for the priority date. All applications must be made through the LSU Graduate School, and the online application process can be found at <http://gradlsu.gs.lsu.edu>.

Regular Admission to the LSU Graduate School requires: (1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; (2) a minimum 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average (GPA) for all undergraduate work taken prior to receiving a degree and a minimum 3.0 GPA for all previous graduate work for which a grade is given; (3) satisfactory academic standing at the last institution attended; (4) acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE); and (5) acceptance into a departmental program.

All applicants, including international, must submit GRE General Test scores. (In some cases, a high GRE may be used to compensate for a low GPA). The GPA earned during the last two years of an undergraduate program is weighted more heavily than the overall GPA. Probationary admission may be granted with a lower GPA if GRE scores are sufficiently high.

International Students

Applicants who have completed degree requirements outside the U.S. must satisfy the following criteria: (1) present a complete outline of all previous college-level education; (2) present authorized school or university records, transcripts, marksheets, and certificates of degrees showing all courses taken and grades received, with certified translations if records are not in English; (3) have obtained a bachelor's degree or equivalent, with a grade-point average equivalent to a "B" or better (3.0 out of possible 4.0) on both undergraduate and graduate work; (4) if an assistantship is not offered, certify the availability of sufficient funds to meet all costs while at LSU before the letter of admission and Form I-20 will be mailed; (5) acceptable scores on the GRE; (6) obtain a minimum score of 550 (213 if computer-based or 79 if internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language

(TOEFL) *OR* a 6.5 on the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS); and (7) be accepted into a departmental program.

Departmental Admission

Admission to the Department's graduate program (M.S. or Ph.D.) requires that students meet the minimum admission requirements of the LSU Graduate School as outlined above. In addition, students must have an adequate background in economics or business, statistics, and mathematics. Adequate background is typically defined to include courses in macro and micro economic theory, statistics, and calculus. Students applying for the M.S. Agribusiness area of study should have background in marketing, management, finance, and accounting. Students applying for admission to the Ph.D. program should have completed an M.S. degree and be ready to take the ECON 7701 – ECON 7702 microeconomic sequence.

III. General Policies

The advising of students in the Department's graduate program is a shared responsibility. Each graduate student is supervised by a major professor. Major professors are expected to provide guidance as needed and to work directly with students in developing the plan of study and research proposals. While all faculty members are generally available for consultation with the student, the major professor provides continuity of counsel throughout the program.

In addition to the major professor, each student will participate in the selection of a graduate committee. This committee approves the program of study and the research proposal. The program of study should be developed in the first semester and approved by the student's committee. Once approved by the student's committee, the program of study should be submitted to the departmental Graduate Committee through the Director of Graduate Studies to ensure that the program meets departmental guidelines. The program will then be forwarded to the Department Head for final departmental approval. In addition, Ph.D. students must submit this program of study to

the Graduate School for approval after the Department Head has approved it. Changes in the program of study or substantive amendments to the research proposal must be approved by the departmental Graduate Committee and the Department Head. Proposed changes in course work for Ph.D. students must also be approved by the Graduate School. The research proposal should be developed and approved by the student's committee and Department Head.

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

Graduate students pursuing the research option (students writing theses and dissertations) must present two formal seminars on their research topic. The first seminar is presented in the formative stages of the proposal. This presentation is made to the student's graduate committee after the research proposal has been developed, but before final approval by the committee. A second seminar is presented as the research nears completion. It is presented to the departmental faculty and university community prior to scheduling the final examination, at a time determined by the major professor.

Graduate Committees

Specific requirements for graduate degrees are determined by the student's committee within Graduate School and departmental guidelines. Each student is assigned to a graduate adviser and committee early in his/her graduate program. The Graduate Coordinator serves as academic adviser for entering graduate students until a permanent adviser is selected. Selections of graduate advisers and committee members are based on the student's research preferences when possible. All M.S. students (thesis and non-thesis) will be assigned a major professor and two committee members from the Department by the end of the first semester of their graduate program.

Students in the Ph.D. program will be assigned a major professor in a manner similar to that for M.S. students. For students in the program outlined in this handbook (all entering during Fall, 2012, or thereafter), two other committee members from the Department are required plus one outside member appointed by the Graduate School. For students in the “old” program (those who entered prior to Fall, 2012, and who have not opted to transfer into the “new” program as laid out in this handbook), three other committee members from the Department are required, plus one outside member appointed by the Graduate School. The outside member is appointed initially to serve on the committee for the general examination. This individual becomes a member of the graduate committee and serves on the final examination. Any minor field in the student’s program requires an additional committee member from the minor department.

Assistantships

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

The assistantship term is a *maximum 2 years for M.S. students and 4 years for Ph.D. students*. Additional time may be granted by/through the Department Head, in consultation with the departmental Graduate Committee, provided that the student’s major professor has grant funds to continue funding the student. Minimum stipends are \$18,000/year for M.S. students and \$20,000/year for Ph.D. students with increases of \$1,000 upon successful completion of Ph.D. Qualifying Examination requirements and \$1,000 upon successful completion of the Ph.D. General Examination. Students on assistantships

are generally granted a Graduate School waiver of in-state tuition.

Students appointed to a departmental assistantship are expected to consider it, together with their course work, as a full-time commitment (20 hours per week for assistantship work, and 20 hours for coursework and thesis/dissertation work). As a result, students accepting a departmental assistantship must agree not to pursue part-time or full-time employment from other sources. Students also must complete weekly time-sheets that will be kept by the Department in compliance with University policy on Assistantship work requirements. Students holding departmental graduate assistantships are prohibited from pursuing degrees in other fields while on assistantship. Pursuit of other degrees or outside employment while on a departmental assistantship may result in termination of the assistantship.

To remain eligible for an assistantship, students are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA. Aside from that, students are required to register as a full-time student during all semesters. That means registering for a minimum of 9 credit hours during each Fall and Spring semester, and a minimum 6 credit hours during the Summer.

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

Minors in Agricultural Economics

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

At the M.S. level, a minor must include at least nine hours of approved courses at the 4000 level

and above (graduate plus undergraduate) taken in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. No fewer than six hours must be taken as a graduate student. For example, students with no previous course work in agricultural economics must take nine hours as a graduate student. Students with three or more hours of previous course work in agricultural economics must take six hours as a graduate student. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for the minor courses.

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

Continued Enrollment after M.S.

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

Students Pursuing the Ph.D. with Masters Degrees from Other Fields

Students holding Master's degrees from other fields occasionally wish to pursue the Ph.D. in

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

Admission from Nonmatriculating Status

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

Progress of Graduate Students

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

Evaluation of student progress and suggestions for future activities will be made by the major

professor. The student's report will be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies no later than June 15th and will be used in determining continuing enrollment in the program and assistantship funding for the following year.

IV. Studies Leading to a M.S. Degree

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

M.S. Thesis (Research) Option

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

Students pursuing the Natural Resource and Environmental Policy area of study must

complete 18 hours of required courses, 9 hours of approved electives and 6 hours of thesis research. Students pursuing the Agricultural Economics area of study must complete 18 hours of required courses, 9 hours of approved electives and 6 hours of thesis research.

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

Non-Thesis Option

The non-thesis option for the M.S. degree provides students with an opportunity for extensive training in a rigorous academic environment, providing a suitable background for employment in the private or public sector.

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

M.S. Examinations

M.S. students are required to successfully complete a final oral examination administered by the student's graduate committee during the last semester of enrollment. The final oral exam for students on the thesis option focuses on the thesis project. Students in the non-thesis option must also satisfactorily complete a final oral which is broader in scope.

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

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

V. Studies Leading to a Ph.D. Degree

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

There are five major steps in fulfilling the requirements for the Ph.D. in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness: (1) development of the program of study; (2) successful completion of required coursework; (3) successful completion of the qualifying examination in microeconomics or grades of B- or greater in both ECON 7701 and ECON 7702; (4) successful completion of the general examination (written and oral portions); and (5) successful completion of the final examination. At least one academic year of continuous residence (two consecutive semesters) as a full-time graduate student must be earned at LSU after the program of study is submitted and approved by the Graduate School.

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

Program of Study

Within the first semester of the Ph.D. program, a student must submit a program of study to the Graduate School for approval. Students are expected to develop a coursework proposal during their first semester and have it approved

by their graduate committee once the committee has been appointed.

Qualifying Examination

All Ph.D. Students are required to take ECON 7701 and 7702 during the first year of their Ph.D. program. Students who do not make \geq B- in ECON 7701 and 7702 must pass a written microeconomic qualifying examination in June following their first year of coursework to continue in the Ph.D. program. Students who fail the written microeconomic qualifying examination in June will be given one more opportunity to pass a written microeconomic qualifying examination in August of that year. Students who fail this second attempt at the written microeconomic qualifying examination will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program. Students who withdraw from ECON 7701 or 7702 will be given two chances to pass the written microeconomic qualifying examination during the summer following their first year of coursework (June and August). Students who fail both attempts at the written microeconomic qualifying examination will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program. The written microeconomic qualifying examination is administered by the Departmental General Exam Committee.

A student transferring into the program who has taken coursework equivalent to ECON 7701 and 7702 at other universities may take the qualifying examination in lieu of ECON 7701 and 7702 if approved by the student's committee.

General Examination

The written Departmental Ph.D. General Examination consists of questions administered by the Departmental General Examination Committee upon completion of core coursework (after four semesters for students starting in the fall semester; after five semesters for students starting in the spring semester). Students will have two opportunities to pass this exam. Failure to pass the written portion of the General Examination on the second attempt will terminate the student's program. The general

examination will consist of questions from core economic areas such as production, consumption, marketing, trade, development, resource or environmental economics, as well as from general agricultural economics or research methods. The written general examination will be administered over two days. The examination will consist of four questions each day; one of which will be general in nature while the others will be from three of the core areas. Students will be required to answer three of the four questions each day. The written general examination will be offered in June of each year. For students who fail the written general examination, they will be allowed to re-take the written general examination once in August of that same year. Students who have not passed the written general examination before the fall semester starts (August of that same year) will not be able to continue in the Ph.D. program.

An oral general examination is given after successfully completing the written general exam. The oral general examination commonly covers the student's dissertation proposal, with questions dealing with economic theory and methods pertaining to the dissertation research.

Final Examination

The Final Examination may be scheduled after General Examination requirements are satisfied and one academic year (two consecutive semesters) have elapsed since passing the General Examination. The Final Examination, an oral test administered by the student's graduate committee, members from minor departments, and the member appointed by Graduate School, focuses on (but is not confined exclusively to) contents of the dissertation.

Ph.D. Course Requirements

Ph.D. students are required to complete (1) core courses ECON 7610, ECON 7630, ECON 7631, ECON 7717, ECON 7701, and ECON 7702; (2) AGECE 7123 or ECON 7632 or ECON 7633; (3) ≥ 18 hours of 7000-level AGECE coursework. Table 6 shows the general structure of coursework in the Ph.D. program. The number of credit hours required as shown is beyond the

B.S. level. Students normally are expected to exceed these minimum requirements. Students are required to complete 12 hours of Economic Theory, 9 hours of Quantitative Methods, 18 hours of 7000-level Agricultural Economics elective courses and 6 hours of other 7000-level Approved Electives (as approved by the student's graduate committee), and 12 hours of Dissertation Research, for a total of 57 hours. The approved electives may be used to develop a specialization or to gain breadth in the Ph.D. program. Students entering the program with deficiencies in their background training may be required to take additional courses.

Preparation of the Dissertation

Ph.D. students, with graduate committee and graduate adviser approval, may elect to prepare the dissertation in either traditional or journal-style format. Guidelines for preparation of both styles are presented in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*, available from the Graduate School. Students electing to use the journal-style format must indicate this choice during the first year of their program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 4. M.S. Thesis Degree Timetable

Program Item	Deadline	Comments
Orientation	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Graduate Adviser is temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Assign Major Professor	Orientation period – midterm of entering semester.	The major professor becomes the permanent academic and work adviser.
Complete Program of Study	By the end of the first semester.	It must be approved by the student’s advisory committee (SAC) and the Department Head.
Complete Research Proposal	By the end of the second semester.	A short presentation to the SAC. Proposal is approved by the SAC and Department Head.
Internship	During or prior to last semester.	Student, in consultation with permanent advisor, must make all internship arrangements.
Present Departmental Research Seminar	As thesis research is nearing completion, but prior to scheduling final examination.	Schedule, and inform department personnel, one month prior to presentation.
Take Final Oral Examination	During student’s last semester of enrollment.	After thesis is completed. Administered by the SAC.

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

Program Item	Deadline	Comments
Orientation	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Graduate Adviser is temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Assign Major Professor	Orientation period – midterm of entering semester.	The major professor becomes the permanent academic and work adviser.
Complete Program of Study	By the end of the first semester.	It must be approved by the student's advisory committee (SAC) and the Department Head.
Internship	During or prior to last semester.	Student, in consultation with permanent advisor, must make all internship arrangements.
Take Final Oral Examination	During student's last semester of enrollment.	Administered by the SAC.

Table 6. AGEC Ph.D. Program Coursework Summary

<i>Required Courses -- Theory</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ECON 7610: Mathematics for Economists	3
ECON 7717: Intro to Advanced Macroeconomics	3
ECON 7701: Introduction to Advanced Microeconomics	3
ECON 7702: Advanced Microeconomic I	3
<i>Required Courses – Quantitative Methods</i>	
ECON 7630: Econometric Methods I	3
ECON 7631: Econometric Methods II	3
<i>Additional Quantitative Methods Course</i>	
AGEC 7123 Operations Research Methods in Agricultural Economics <i>or</i> ECON 7632 Econometric Theory III <i>or</i> ECON 7633 Dynamic Econometric Theory	3
<i>Additional 7000-level AGEC Courses</i>	
Approved 7000-level AGEC Courses	18
<i>Minimum Requirements</i>	
Required Courses	18
Additional Quantitative Methods Course	3
Approved 7000-level AGEC Courses	18
Other Approved 7000-level Electives	6
Dissertation Research Hours	12
<i>Total Minimum Credit Hours</i>	57

Table 7. Ph.D. Degree Timetable.

Program Item	Deadline	Comments
Orientation & Workshop	The week prior to start of classes. New students must arrive one week early.	The Graduate Adviser is temporary advisor to new graduate students.
Assign Major Professor	Orientation period - midterm of entering semester.	The major professor becomes the permanent academic and work adviser.
Program of Study	By the end of first semester.	It must be approved by the student's advisory committee (SAC) and the Dept. Head.
Full-time Residence	One full academic year of continuous full-time enrollment after submission of program.	Program of study must be approved by the graduate school.
Research Proposal	By the end of second semester.	A short presentation to the SAC. Proposal is approved by the SAC and Department Head.
Qualifying Examination	June following the first full academic year. Re-take in August of same year if failed in June.	Required if student has < B- in ECON 7701 or ECON 7702.
Written General Examination	June immediately following completion of the student's first two academic years in the program. Re-take the following August if failed upon first try.	Administered by departmental General Examination Committee, consisting of questions from core economic areas and general agricultural economics.
Oral General Examination	Following Written General Examination.	Administered by SAC
Departmental Research Seminar	As dissertation research is nearing completion, but prior to scheduling final examination.	Schedule, and inform department personnel, one month prior to presentation.
Final Oral Examination	During student's last semester of enrollment and after dissertation has been completed.	The final exam request must be submitted to the Graduate School at least 3 weeks prior to the proposed examination date, and by the current semester deadline, if the student is a candidate for degree.

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

Adusumilli, Naveen. Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2012
Research Areas: Water Policy, Production Economics, Natural Resource Economics.

Bampasidou, Maria. Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Florida, 2012
Research Areas: Agricultural Finance, Labor, and Impact & Program Evaluation.

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

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

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

Guidry, Kurt M. Gilbert Durbin Endowed Professor. Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 1997.
Extension Areas: Agricultural Marketing and Farm Management.

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

Paudel, Krishna P. Professor. Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1999.
Research Areas: Environmental and Resource Economics, and Development Economics.

Salassi, Michael E. Professor and Head. Ph.D., Mississippi State University, 1985. *Research/Extension Areas:* Farm Management and Production Economics.

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

Tanger, Shaun. Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Auburn University, 2010.
Research/Extension Areas: Forest Economics.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Hill, R. Carter. Marjory B. Ourso Center for Excellence in Teaching Professor; Professor of Economics; Adjunct Professor of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Ph.D., University of Missouri.

Appendix B: Graduate Student Progress Report

Student:

Date:

Date Entering Program: M.S. _____ Ph.D. _____

Graduate Advisory Committee: _____, Major Professor
 _____, _____, _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____

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

Program of Study Approved on: _____

Research Proposal Approved on: _____

Coursework Completed on: _____

General Exam Completed on: _____ (*Ph.D. only*)

Departmental Seminar given on: _____ **Expected Date of Completion: :** _____

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

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

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

Please include any additional comments you may have below:

Signatures:

Graduate Student	Date
Major Professor	Date

Appendix C. 7000-level AGE C Courses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix D: Agricultural Economics Graduate Student Association

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

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

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