

## Careers

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Students completing the Master of Science degree will have the opportunity to pursue positions with employers in a number of areas. Students will also be prepared to pursue a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics. The analytical and communications skills the degree provides are sought by private firms and government agencies for jobs that deal with some of the most challenging issues facing agriculture and our environment and natural resources.



If you're looking for more knowledge, more training—more out of your career—then the Agricultural Economics Master of Science program is for you.

## Admissions

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Admission to the program requires Mississippi State University acceptance. A GRE score is also required. Information on applying to Mississippi State University is available from the Office of the Graduate School website at [www.grad.msstate.edu](http://www.grad.msstate.edu).

## Graduate Research Assistantships

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Master of Science students may apply for research assistantships to fund their education. Prospective students may contact the Graduate Coordinator for more information.

**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY™

*Department of Agricultural Economics*

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Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status.



# Finding Sustainable Solutions for the 21st Century



Master of Science in  
Agriculture

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Agricultural  
Economics  
Concentration

**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
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*Department of Agricultural Economics*

## Program of Study

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The Agricultural Economics program prepares students who seek careers requiring advanced analytical and problem-solving skills. The curriculum is general, providing a student with training in economic theory, multiple methods of quantitative analysis, and applied research methods. At the same time, students have the opportunity to select from a wide range of specific research problems.

Requirements include the completion of at least 26 credit hours plus 6 thesis research hours, and students also complete and defend a thesis on an appropriate research topic.



The Lloyd-Ricks-Watson Building,  
home of the Department of Agricultural  
Economics.

## Curriculum

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Students typically begin taking courses in a fall semester. The first-year sequence is as follows:

### Fall

- AEC 6713 Quantitative Economics
- AEC 6733 Econometric Analysis in Agricultural Economics
- AEC 8163 Consumers, Producers, and Markets
- AEC 8611 Research Seminar I

### Spring

- AEC 8233 Welfare Economics
- AEC 8143 Agricultural Production Economics
- AEC 8123 Market Organization and Structure
- AEC 8621 Research Seminar II

Two additional courses are also completed following the first year:

- AEC 8413 Game Theory
- AEC 8843 Survey Design and Experimental Economics

## Research

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Thesis research is a significant component of the Master of Science degree. While completing most coursework in the first year, students learn research methods and identify an appropriate research topic for the thesis. Each student works closely with a major professor and other



faculty through an advisory committee to develop the research problem addressed by the thesis. Many topics are available for thesis research, including such areas as production agriculture, policy analysis, and resource use. A variety of techniques are used in thesis research to address these issues, from designing surveys to developing economic simulation models.