

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS: PROFESSIONAL OPTION, MS

This full-time, 12-21 month, on-campus professional master's option is designed to prepare students to fill the growing private sector demand for quantitatively-skilled analysts and managers. Students will learn skills in economic reasoning, data management, empirical analysis, and technical communication in order to find analytical positions in governmental, or non-governmental sectors. Students can choose coursework focused on applied economics or agribusiness management depending on their career goals. They can also take additional electives in AAE's focus areas of agriculture, international development, and environmental and natural resource economics. [Learn more. \(p. 1\)](#)

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

| Requirements | Detail |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Fall Deadline | April 15 for international applicants; June 1 for domestic applicants* |
| Spring Deadline | This program does not admit in the spring. |
| Summer Deadline | May 1** |
| GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) | Required. |
| English Proficiency Test | Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/). |
| Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a |
| Letters of Recommendation Required | 2 |

* Priority deadline: March 15

**Domestic applicant deadline to accept admission: June 30

PREPARATORY COURSEWORK

Strong applicants to the Agricultural and Applied Economics - MS Professional Option will have successfully completed undergraduate courses in microeconomics, calculus, and statistics.

For details on the Agricultural and Applied Economics MS application process, please visit the department application site (<https://aae.wisc.edu/apply/>).

For more information on the MS degree, contact the Graduate Academic Program Manager listed in the contact information box.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

[The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.](#)

Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

AAE has limited scholarships for Professional Option students. Applications will be reviewed for admission and funding with the initial application.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

| Face to Face | Evening/Weekend | Online | Hybrid | Accelerated |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

| | |
|---|--|
| Minimum Credit Requirement | 30 credits |
| Minimum Residence Credit Requirement | 16 credits |
| Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement | 15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/). |
| Overall Graduate GPA Requirement | 3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/). |
| Other Grade Requirements | Students must earn grades of B or above in all core curriculum coursework. |
| Assessments and Examinations | n/a |
| Language Requirements | No language requirements. |

REQUIRED COURSES

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|--|---------|
| Core Course Requirement | | |
| A A E 636 | Applied Econometric Analysis I | 3 |
| A A E 635 or A A E 625 | Applied Microeconomic Theory Agribusiness Economics and Management | 3 |
| A A E 637 or A A E 719 | Applied Econometric Analysis II Applied Business Economics | 4 |
| Data Science Requirement | | |
| A A E 718 | Data Science for Agricultural and Applied Economics | 3 |
| Seminar Requirement | | |
| A A E 720 | Seminar in Quantitative and Applied Economics | 1 |
| A A E 721 | Professional Communication of Applied Economic Analysis | 1 |
| A A E 723 | Professional Development Seminar | 1 |
| Practicum / Internship requirement | | |
| Students must complete at least 4 credits from one of the following courses. | | 4-6 |
| A A E 724 or A A E 899 | Practicum for Applied Economists AAE Graduate Practical Training/Internship | |

Electives Requirement

Students must complete additional elective coursework to meet the 30-credit minimum requirement. Refer to the Elective Course Options table below. 8-10

Total Credits **30**

Elective Course Options

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|---|---------|
| A A E 319 | The International Agricultural Economy | 3 |
| A A E 320 | Agricultural Systems Management | 3 |
| A A E 322 | Commodity Markets | 4 |
| A A E 323 | Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership | 3 |
| A A E 335 | Introduction to Data Analysis using Spreadsheets | 2 |
| A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST 343 | Environmental Economics | 3-4 |
| A A E/ NUTR SCI 350 | World Hunger and Malnutrition | 3 |
| A A E 352 | Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy | 4 |
| A A E/ECON 371 | Energy, Resources and Economics | 3 |
| A A E/INTL ST 373 | Globalization, Poverty and Development | 3 |
| A A E/INTL ST 374 | The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy | 3 |
| A A E 375 | Special Topics | 1-4 |
| A A E 419 | Agricultural Finance | 3 |
| A A E/ECON 421 | Economic Decision Analysis | 4 |
| A A E 422 | Food Systems and Supply Chains | 3 |
| A A E/ECON/ INTL BUS 462 | Latin American Economic Development | 3 |
| A A E/ECON 473 | Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia | 3 |
| A A E/ECON 474 | Economic Problems of Developing Areas | 3 |
| A A E/ECON 477 | Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa | 3 |
| A A E/REAL EST/ URB R PL 520 | Community Economic Analysis | 3 |
| A A E/ECON 526 | Quantitative Methods in Agricultural and Applied Economics | 4 |
| A A E/ECON/ F&W ECOL 531 | Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| A A E/M H R 540 | Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Technology | 3 |
| A A E 601 | Applied Economics ¹ | 3 |
| A A E 625 | Agribusiness Economics and Management | 3 |
| A A E 670 | Mathematics for Agricultural and Applied Economics ¹ | 3 |
| A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 671 | Energy Economics | 3 |
| A A E 706 | Applied Risk Analysis | 3 |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| A A E 719 | Applied Business Economics | 4 |
| A A E 737 | Applied Econometric Analysis III | 3 |
| A A E/CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 561 | Energy Markets | 3 |
| A A E 641 | Foundations of Agricultural Economics | 3 |
| A A E 642 | Foundations of Development Economics | 3 |
| A A E 643 | Foundations of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| A A E 722 | Machine Learning in Applied Economic Analysis | 4 |

¹ Recommended summer entry course

Other Policy

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 7 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

The A A E Graduate Faculty Committee makes decisions regarding student progress.

CREDITS ALLOWED PER TERM

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

A full-time student is expected to complete the MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics in 15 months (4 semesters). However, the program can be completed in as little as 12 months (3 semesters). The program can be completed part-time but must be completed in five years.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Grievance Policy

In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), any student who feels unfairly treated by a member of the CALs faculty or staff has the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing. Some complaints may arise from misunderstandings or communication

breakdowns and be easily resolved; others may require formal action. Complaints may concern any matter of perceived unfairness.

To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect the rights of both the person complaining and the person at whom the complaint is directed, the following procedures are used in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies.

1. The student should first talk with the person at whom the complaint is directed. Most issues can be settled at this level. Others may be resolved by established departmental procedures.
2. If the student is unsatisfied, and the complaint involves any unit outside CALS, the student should seek the advice of the dean or director of that unit to determine how to proceed.
 - a. If the complaint involves an academic department in CALS the student should proceed in accordance with item 3 below.
 - b. If the grievance involves a unit in CALS that is not an academic department, the student should proceed in accordance with item 4 below.
3. The student should contact the department's grievance advisor within 120 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The departmental administrator can provide this person's name. The grievance advisor will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint, in discussions with the student and the person at whom the complaint is directed.
 - a. If informal mediation fails, the student can submit the grievance in writing to the grievance advisor within 10 working days of the date the student is informed of the failure of the mediation attempt by the grievance advisor. The grievance advisor will provide a copy to the person at whom the grievance is directed.
 - b. The grievance advisor will refer the complaint to a department committee that will obtain a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, providing a copy to the student. Either party may request a hearing before the committee. The grievance advisor will provide both parties a written decision within 20 working days from the date of receipt of the written complaint.
 - c. If the grievance involves the department chairperson, the grievance advisor or a member of the grievance committee, these persons may not participate in the review.
 - d. If not satisfied with departmental action, either party has 10 working days from the date of notification of the departmental committee action to file a written appeal to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. A subcommittee of this committee will make a preliminary judgement as to whether the case merits further investigation and review. If the subcommittee unanimously determines that the case does not merit further investigation and review, its decision is final. If one or more members of the subcommittee determine that the case does merit further investigation and review, the subcommittee will investigate and seek to resolve the dispute through mediation. If this mediation attempt fails, the subcommittee will bring the case to the full committee. The committee may seek additional information from the parties or hold a hearing. The committee will present a written recommendation to the dean who will provide a final decision within 20 working days of receipt of the committee recommendation.
4. If the alleged unfair treatment occurs in a CALS unit that is not an academic department, the student should, within 120 calendar days of the alleged incident, take his/her grievance directly to the Associate

Dean of Academic Affairs. The dean will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint. If this mediation attempt does not succeed the student may file a written complaint with the dean who will refer it to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee will seek a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, subsequently following other steps delineated in item 3d above.

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The MS AAE Professional Option courses are designed to prepare students to enter the professional workforce in both the U.S. and abroad in data-intensive and quantitatively focused jobs in economic consulting, businesses, agribusinesses, non-profit organizations focused on development, and governmental sectors.