

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS - BS, POLICY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OPTION

This program is designed to assist in the development of economic theory and quantitative analysis skills that students can apply to analyze and communicate about agricultural policy and economic issues in Texas, the nation, and the world.

The Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics offers students four options: Finance and Real Estate, Food Marketing Systems, Policy and Economic Analysis, and Rural Entrepreneurship. The course requirements for the freshman and sophomore years are the same for the above Agricultural Economics options.

The Policy and Economic Analysis option equips students with analytical skills to understand the causes, nature, and effects of government participation in agriculture; and interrelationship of the American agriculture and agribusiness sector with the political and economic system, public administration, and interest group representation. A student's educational experience is further enriched with supportive high-impact opportunities such as participation in the Agriculture and Natural Resource Program (ANRP) Congressional Internship; Texas State Government Internships, Commodity groups and Lobby internship; Study Abroad and Independent research. With the aid of faculty and staff advisors, students in the Policy and Economic Analysis option design their plan of study reflecting their particular future goals by incorporating higher-level electives outside the department. Students interested in graduate education may focus on developing a strong background in the following areas: quantitative analysis, economic theory, and applied economics. Those interested in entering law school may focus on courses in law, political science, and technical writing. Furthermore, those students interested in careers in government and policy may focus on courses in policy, political science, and management.

Graduates are trained for a wide variety of careers in local, state, and federal governments, and also with commodity groups and lobby firms. The program prepares students to continue on to graduate school, or pursue the 5-year combined program (BS AGECE and MPS PSAA (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-economics/bs-mpsaa/>)) with the Bush School of Government and Public Service. A good number of students have pursued this option and continued on to law school.

The BS in Agricultural Economics with a Policy and Economic Analysis option is also offered at the Texas A&M Higher Education Center in McAllen, Texas.

Program Requirements

First Year

| | | Semester Credit Hours |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| AGEC 105 | Introduction to Agricultural Economics ¹ | 3 |
| AGLS 101 or AGECE 101 | Modern Agricultural Systems and Renewable Natural Resources ¹ or Concepts in Agricultural Economics - First Year Experience | 1 |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| ENGL 103 or ENGL 104 | Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition or Composition and Rhetoric | 3 |
| MATH 140 | Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences ¹ | 3 |
| American history (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history) ² | | 3 |
| Technical agriculture ^{3,4} | | 3 |

Semester Credit Hours 16

Spring

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| AGEC 117 | Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Agricultural Economics ⁵ | 1 |
| MATH 142 | Business Calculus ¹ | 3 |
| American history (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history) ² | | 3 |
| Creative arts (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts) ⁴ | | 3 |
| Language, philosophy and culture (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture) ⁴ | | 3 |
| Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences) | | 3 |

Semester Credit Hours 16

Second Year

Fall

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ACCT 209 | Survey of Accounting Principles | 3 |
| AGEC 217 | Fundamentals of Agricultural Economics Analysis | 3 |
| ECON 202 | Principles of Economics | 3 |
| Government/Political science (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science) ² | | 3 |
| Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences) | | 3 |

Semester Credit Hours 15

Spring

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ACCT 210 | Survey of Managerial and Cost Accounting Principles | 3 |
| ECON 203 | Principles of Economics | 3 |
| Communication elective (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication) | | 3 |
| Government/Political science (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#government-political-science) ² | | 3 |
| Life and physical sciences (https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences) | | 3 |

Semester Credit Hours 15

Third Year

Fall

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| AGEC 314 | Marketing Agricultural and Food Products | 3 |
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| AGEC 340 | Agribusiness Management | 3 |
| ECON 323 | Microeconomic Theory | 3 |
| STAT 303 | Statistical Methods | 3 |
| Directed non-agricultural economics elective ^{4,6} | | 3 |
| Semester Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| AGEC 317 | Economic Analysis for Agribusiness Management | 3 |
| AGEC 330 | Financial Management in Agriculture | 3 |
| AGEC 429 | Agricultural Policy ⁵ | 3 |
| AGEC 481 | Ethics in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics | 1 |
| Directed agricultural economics elective ⁷ | | 3 |
| General elective ^{4,8} | | 3 |
| Semester Credit Hours | | 16 |
| Fourth Year | | |
| Fall | | |
| AGEC 344 or AGECE 452 | Food and Agricultural Law or International Trade and Agriculture | 3 |
| AGEC 447 | Food and Agricultural Price Analysis | 3 |
| Directed agricultural economics elective ⁷ | | 3 |
| Directed non-agricultural economics elective ^{4,6} | | 3 |
| General elective ^{4,8} | | 3 |
| Semester Credit Hours | | 15 |
| Spring | | |
| AGEC 350 | Environmental and Natural Resource Economics | 3 |
| AGEC 430 or ECON 311 | Macroeconomics of Agriculture or Money and Banking | 3 |
| Directed agricultural economics elective ⁷ | | 3 |
| General elective ^{4,8} | | 3 |
| Semester Credit Hours | | 12 |
| Total Semester Credit Hours | | 120 |

⁸ Any Texas A&M or transfer course (except ASCC 001 - ASSC 003 (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/ascc/>) and KINE 199) not used to meet other requirements.

¹ Must make a grade of C or better.

² Students under ROTC contract, see Requirement 7 of the Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree. (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/#requirements-for-baccalaureate-degree>)

³ Any course offered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, except 285s, 484s, 485s and agricultural economics courses.

⁴ The Graduation requirements include a requirement for 3 hours of international and cultural diversity courses and 3 hours of cultural discourse courses. A course satisfying a Core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. See academic advisor.

⁵ All undergraduate students must take at least two (2) specific courses in their major designated as writing intensive (W). This course is an approved W course.

⁶ Six hours to be selected in one or more departments outside of the Department of Agricultural Economics. A minimum of 3 of these hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. To be selected in consultation with an advisor.

⁷ To be selected in consultation with an advisor.