

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS - BS, RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPTION

This program is designed to provide a well-founded basis in principles, concepts and methods for students interested in owning and/or managing or otherwise being engaged in working with a rural business.

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.

Using “real world” application, students in the Rural Entrepreneurship option engage in firm-level problem identification, analysis, decision making, and management control. Integrating ideas, numbers, and mentor interactions are central to the courses’ paradigms.

The option focuses on providing students ‘hands-on’ opportunities to develop economic and financial numerical evaluations of their business ideas. Numerous extracurricular ‘outside-the-classroom’ activities are used to supplement the course curriculum, providing transformational learning experiences for the students. The capstone characteristics of the classes afford the students connectivity opportunities to relate their other coursework to pragmatic applications in entrepreneurial pursuits of their individual interests.

Courses include frequent dialogues on contemporary rural and metropolitan entrepreneurial decision situations, applied computer analyses, and development of each student’s management information system to accommodate their continued learning. Students are encouraged to ‘think outside the box,’ with exploration of non-traditional production, marketing, financing, and management opportunities being requisite components of students’ individualized business plan development.

The program’s pedagogy incorporates case studies, proprietary business enterprise spreadsheets, and direct mentorship in the lectures and labs, as students identify their unique business enterprises to research and develop as business plans. ‘Real-world’ visiting “Professors-for-a-Day” (Profs-for-a-Day) are an integral feature of these classes, with entrepreneurs, financial lenders, industry insurance representatives, marketing professionals, and others presenting in the classes.

Students pursuing this option are afforded opportunities to participate in numerous extracurricular activities made possible through donors to the Rister ’74 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program. Included in such activities are the Edwards ’73 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Mentoring Forum, the Alpha Painting Business Pitch, and the Texas Farm Credit Entrepreneurial Dreams Symposium. Objectives of the Rister ’74 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program include the following:

- Launch new entrepreneurs.
- Enhance agribusiness entrepreneurship acumen for College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ and other Texas A&M University students; and
- Facilitate networking among current and former students and other professionals.

Program Requirements

First Year		Semester
Fall		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 elective ^{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 (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
AGEC 340 Agribusiness Management	3
ECON 323 Microeconomic Theory	3
STAT 303 Statistical Methods	3
Directed non-agricultural economics elective ^{4,6}	3
General elective ^{4,8}	3
Semester Credit Hours	18
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
Directed non-agricultural economics elective ^{4,6}	3
Semester Credit Hours	16
Fourth Year	
Fall	
AGEC 344 Food and Agricultural Law	3
AGEC 424 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship – Economic Analysis	3
Directed agricultural economics elective ⁷	3
General elective ^{4,8}	3
Semester Credit Hours	12
Spring	
AGEC 425 Agribusiness Entrepreneurship – Financial Analysis	3
AGEC 430 Macroeconomics of Agriculture or ECON 311 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

- 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.
- ⁸ Any Texas A&M or transfer course (except ASCC 001-ASCC 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.