The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications offers graduate studies leading to the degrees of: Master of Agriculture in agricultural development, an online or campus program, Master of Education, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy in agricultural leadership, education, and communications. A Doctor of Education in agricultural education is offered on campus and at a distance through a joint program with Texas Tech University.

Professionals completing these degrees work in a variety of contextual settings including agricultural communications/journalism, technology-enhanced learning, organizational and community leadership, extension education, teacher education, and international agricultural development.

Graduate students, in consultation with a graduate advisor, select areas of emphasis. Examples include agricultural communications, extension education, international agricultural development, leadership education theory and applications, instructional design and delivery, and teacher education.

Departmental faculty members maintain contact with professionals in their field. These contacts enable faculty members to teach and direct research in support of graduate programs with a current appreciation of the important and complex problems encountered by professional practitioners.

For additional information about the graduate faculty and programs available in the department, contact the graduate program coordinator by email (cfulton@tamu.edu) or visit the website at http://alec.tamu.edu.

Degree Programs

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications at Texas A&M University is by far the largest program of its kind, and has been ranked as the second most distinguished program in agricultural education in the United States. Faculty members in the Department provide leadership to national and international organizations within the discipline. Graduate faculty members in the Department cluster into learning communities based primarily on the settings where we work. Students will benefit from the faculty members' different professional interests, perspectives, and knowledge, and learn from their experience in the classroom.

Master's Programs

Three Master's degree programs are available in the department for individuals interested in career areas such as a public relations account manager, communications coordinator, agricultural science teacher, sales representative, county extension agent, leadership consultant, social and public service, instructional designer, and international development specialist. Because of the diverse nature of these careers, degree plans will vary considerably and are generally unique for each individual. Your specific degree plan is developed through consultation with your graduate committee.

Master of Science (Thesis option)
The Master of Science, with thesis, requires a minimum of 32 semester-hours of coursework. The degree plan consists of at least 32 credit hours, typically, 20 hours will be taken in the department, 3-4 of these hours will be credited for the thesis, and a maximum of 12 hours of coursework may be in supporting field(s) of interest.

Coursework in the supporting fields in the MS-Thesis program may be in any academic area that contributes to a students career objectives. Examples include agricultural leadership, agricultural communications, change management, extension education, international agricultural development, research methods and sociology.

Master of Science (Non-Thesis option)

Students whose career objectives are concerned with formal or informal education in agriculture may seek the Master of Science-Non-Thesis option: e.g., teaching agricultural sciences, working as an Extension educator, in leadership fields, in training and development or international agricultural development. The 36 semester-hours of coursework consist typically of 18 to 24 semester hours in the department and a maximum of 12 hours of coursework may be completed in support areas.

Master of Education

Students whose career objectives include working in formal or informal education setting in agriculture seek the Master of Education: e.g., teaching agricultural sciences in a high school, working as an Extension educator, corporate training and development. The 36 semester credit hour program typically includes 18 to 24 hours in the department and one or more support areas.

Master of Agriculture (Distance Education only)

Students pursuing careers in fields such as instructional design, international agricultural development, agricultural leadership or rural community development might seek the Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Development. The program prepares individuals for leadership roles in education, instructional design, cooperative extension service, and many other professional careers in agriculture and life sciences. The program is completed as distance education. This is a non-thesis degree program that emphasizes the development of problem-solving skills involved in applying science and technology to benefit humanity.

This 36 semester credit hour program includes development of a professional paper and to demonstrate problem solving capabilities, a professional internship may be completed to provide meaningful, applied, and practical experience. The internship is a unique feature of the M.Ag program completed at the end of formal coursework, and involves either paid or un-paid employment in your area of interest. Planned in concert by the student, university adviser and business supervisor, the internship normally lasts from three to six months.

Doctoral Programs

The Department offers three doctoral programs described below:
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy is a specialized, research-oriented degree. Coursework gives the candidate a thorough and comprehensive knowledge in the field of study and methods of research. The program requires a minimum of 64 semester credit hours, including dissertation research, beyond the master’s degree. Without the master’s degree, the program would include a minimum of 96 semester credit hours. The program prepares individuals for university faculty positions, public and corporate leadership roles in education, natural resource management, extension education, international development, and many other professional careers in agriculture and life sciences. Ordinarily, students pursuing the PhD choose supporting coursework closely aligned to their research interests and professional goals.

Doctor of Education (EdD)

The Doctor of Education is a campus-based professional degree designed to prepare a candidate for a position of leadership in the full range of educational settings, including public and private schools and colleges, business, government, industry, and international organizations. The program is designed for the practitioner; a graduate may be expected to fill instructional, supervisory, administrative, and policy positions in agricultural, educational, and corporate settings. Although substantively different from the PhD, the EdD requires equivalent admission qualifications, standards of scholarship and breadth and depth of study. A record of study and an internship are completed in this 64 semester credit hour program.

Joint Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education (Doc@Distance)

We are currently not recruiting or admitting for this program.

The Joint EdD in agricultural education is delivered at a distance with the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications at Texas Tech University. The program is designed for mid-career professionals. Student enter as members of a cohort, and advance together through the program over four years. Program graduates are providing leadership and direction a variety of instructional, supervisory, and administrative positions across the education and training professions. Admission review takes place every two years with a new cohort beginning every odd fall semester. The admission process is different than our other degree programs. If you are interested in this program, contact the graduate program coordinator by email (cfulton@tamu.edu) or visit the website http://alec.tamu.edu/academics/distance-education/joint-edd-program/.

Entering doctoral studies is a long term commitment on the part of the student and the department. Individuals interested in the doctoral programs are strongly encouraged to schedule a visit to interview with faculty. If a visit cannot be arranged, applicants are encouraged to prepare a 3-5 minute video sharing general information about yourself, your professional work experience, the area of study you are interested in, and your long-term academic and professional goals.

Certificate Programs

The Department offers four certificate programs which will enable individuals to gain specific knowledge and skillsets: Advanced Pedagogy in Agriculture, Agriculture eLearning Development, Extension Education, and Leadership, Education, Theory, and Practice. The Advanced Pedagogy, Agriculture eLearning Development, and the Leadership certificates may be obtained at a distance by taking online courses. All departmental certificates may be completed in a degree program, by applying as a certificate option only, or continuing education.

For more information to obtain any of the certificates, please contact the graduate coordinator, Clarice Fulton at cfulton@tamu.edu, or call 979-862-7180.

Certificate in Advanced Pedagogy in Agriculture

A Certificate in Advanced Pedagogy in Agriculture is designed for graduate students to continue their education and develop professionally in pedagogy principles and delivery. This program is offered completely online, however some courses are also offered face to face. It provides flexibility for students to take courses in the manner that best fits their schedule. This certificate is appropriate for teachers, advisors, coaches, coordinators, and others who want to develop more advanced skills in working with youth in agriculture and related settings. Students are required to complete five courses (14 credit hours) to earn the certificate.

Certificate in Agriculture eLearning Development

The Agriculture eLearning Development certificate is an innovative program that prepares students and professionals to develop sophisticated eLearning courses and programs to serve the eTraining needs of both public and private sectors of agriculture. Students are required to complete five online courses (14 credit hours) to earn the certificate.

Certificate in Extension Education

A Certificate in Extension Education is an innovative program that prepares students with the unique knowledge and skills required to apply Extension education theory and put into practice these theories at any level in an organization. Students will gain a substantive foundation of Extension education theory, with the instructional focus on community situations and how to apply theories to all community situations. Students are required to complete five courses (14 credit hours) to earn the certificate.

Certificate in Leadership Education, Theory, and Practice

The Leadership Education, Theory, and Practice Certificate will prepare students with the unique knowledge and skills required to apply leadership theories to all professional organizations, including public and corporate leadership roles in education, natural resource management, extension education, international development, and many other professional careers in agriculture and life sciences. Ordinarily, students pursuing the PhD choose supporting coursework closely aligned to their research interests and professional goals.

Faculty

Archer, Holli R, Assistant Professor
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2013

Boyd, Barry L, Associate Professor
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1991

Briers, Gary E, Professor
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm
PHD, Iowa State University, 1978
Masters

• Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Development (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/agricultural-development-agriculture-masters)

• Master of Education in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/med)

• Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/ms)

Doctoral

• Doctor of Education in Agricultural Education (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/edd)

• Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/phd)

Certificates

The Department offers four certificate programs which will enable individuals to gain specific knowledge and skillsets: Advanced Pedagogy in Agriculture, Agriculture eLearning Development, Extension Education, and Leadership, Education, Theory, and Practice. The Advanced Pedagogy, eLearning Development, and the Leadership certificates may be obtained at a distance by taking online courses. All certificates may be completed in a degree program or by applying as a certificate option only.

• Advanced Pedagogy in Agriculture Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/advanced-pedagogy-agriculture-certificate)

• Agriculture eLearning Development Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/elearning-development-agriculture-certificate)
• Extension Education Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/extension-education-certificate)
• International Agriculture Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/international-agriculture-certificate)
• Leadership Education, Theory, and Practice Certificate (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/colleges-schools-interdisciplinary/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/leadership-education-theory-practice-certificate)

Cost to Complete a Certificate

All certificates offered by the department may be completed in a degree program or certificate only status as academic credit (active enrollment at Texas A&M University) or by Continuing Education. Cost for academic credit is based on Texas A&M University tuition and fees. Cost for continuing education credit is currently $525/course and may be subject to change. In both cases, these costs do not include expenses related to required software or textbooks. A certificate completed through continuing education will not be listed on a university transcript, and many people prefer "transcripted" certificate programs.

If an individual is not currently enrolled at Texas A&M University, completion of the certificate courses and "transcripted" completion on a university transcript is obtained by enrolling at Texas A&M University by submitting an certificate application through Apply Texas. If accepted, students will complete the courses for academic credit.

For more information about completing a transcripted certificate program or a non-transcripted certificate through Continuing Education, please contact the graduate coordinator, Clarice Fulton by email, cfulton@tamu.edu, or phone 979-862-7180.