MASTER OF AGRICULTURE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

The Master of Agriculture (MAgr) degree is designed for a student who wants professional graduate training with a management orientation in agriculture, food and natural resources. It is intended to emphasize the problem solving skills involved in the use of science and technology to benefit humanity, not as a research degree.

An individual with a baccalaureate degree from a college or university of recognized standing, or a qualified Texas A&M University senior during his/her last semester, may apply for admission to graduate studies to pursue the non-thesis degree of Master of Agriculture. The candidate’s advisory committee shall specify prerequisite work where necessary.

The student must demonstrate problem solving capabilities. Degree candidates may gain such capabilities by completing a professional internship that is designed to provide meaningful, applied, practical experiences, and which may vary in duration from three to nine months depending upon departmental requirements.

The degree may be earned in select academic departments of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

This program is also approved for delivery via asynchronous or synchronous distance education technology.

Program Requirements

Program Requirements

- Student’s Advisory Committee (p. 1)
- Degree Plan (p. 1)
- Credit Requirement (p. 2)
- Transfer of Credit (p. 2)
- Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses (p. 2)
- Final Examination (p. 2)

Student’s Advisory Committee

On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable, concerning appointment of the chair of his or her advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee for the master’s degree will consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty representative of the student’s fields of study and research. The chair or one of the co-chairs of the advisory committee must be from the student’s department or intercollegiate faculty, if appropriate, and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department.

The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee. The student will interview each prospective committee member to determine whether he or she is willing to serve. Only graduate faculty members located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student’s advisory committee. Other graduate faculty members located off-campus may serve as a member or co-chair (but not chair), with a member as the chair. The chair of the committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student’s degree program, has the responsibility for calling required meetings of the committee, and for calling meetings at any other time considered desirable.

If the chair of a student’s advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty, from the student’s academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of Intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student’s advisory committee without a co-chair for us to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

If the chair of the student’s advisory committee is unavailable for an extended time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, professional paper and is registered for courses such as 684, 692 or 693, the student may request, in writing, that the department head appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the professional paper and the final examination. In addition, the committee, as a group and as individual members, is responsible for counseling the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The committee members’ approval on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign en masse.

Degree Plan

On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs

The student’s advisory committee, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable, and no later than 90 days prior to the date of the final oral examination or thesis defense.

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website https://ogsdpss.tamu.edu.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the advisory committee or chair of intercollegiate faculty, if applicable, to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.
Credit Requirement

Transfer of Credit

Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension and Certain Other Courses

Final Examination
semester if questions on the exam are based on courses in which the student is currently enrolled.

A professional paper, which is a scholarly report of a problem solving nature, will be prepared by each student. The professional paper must be submitted to the student's advisory committee for approval prior to the final examination. The final examination will cover all work taken on the degree plan and at the option of the committee may be written or oral or both. The examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee as finally constituted. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the major professor, attend final examinations for advanced degrees. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department or interdisciplinary degree program can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department or interdisciplinary program.

The Report of the Final Examination Form must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Graduate and Professional School. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must also be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School. If necessary, multiple copies of the form may be submitted with different committee member original signatures. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must be included on the form submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

A candidate for the Master of Agriculture degree does not qualify to petition for an exemption from his/her final examination.

Additional Requirements

\section*{Additional Requirements}

\begin{itemize}
  \item Residence (p. 3)
  \item Time Limit (p. 3)
  \item Foreign Languages (p. 3)
  \item Application for Degree (p. 3)
\end{itemize}

\subsection*{Residence}

\textbf{On-Campus Degree Program}

A student must complete 12 credit hours in resident study at Texas A&M University to satisfy the residence requirement for the Master of Agriculture degree.

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School.

See Residence Requirements (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirements).

\subsection*{Distance Education Degree Program}

The distance education modality does not have any residence requirement.

\section*{Time Limit}

\textbf{On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs}

All degree requirements must be completed within a period of seven consecutive years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until seven years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework which is more than seven calendar years old at the time of the final examination (oral or written) may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

\section*{Foreign Languages}

\textbf{On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs}

No specific language requirement exists for the Master of Agriculture degree.

\section*{Application for Degree}

\textbf{On-Campus and Distance Education Degree Programs}

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirements) section.