

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Agricultural Economics

Graduate Programs

ageconomics.k-state.edu/grad

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We are pleased that you are interested in the graduate program in Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Our graduate program offers students the opportunity to work with renowned faculty, and prepare for a wide range of careers. Interested students should have the desire to understand the complex and evolving economic problems facing the food and agriculture industries, rural societies, and the use of natural resources. Students should also possess the desire and ability to learn methods of rigorous logical analysis.

Excellence in Academics

Our department is among the most highly-rated U.S. graduate programs in Agricultural Economics. Our professors are nationally and internationally recognized scholars in their fields. Their research focuses on current regional, domestic, and global economic issues and their publications are found in the highest level journals. Furthermore, they are just as committed to quality teaching as they are to producing quality research and they have earned several teaching awards at the university, state, and national levels.

At present, we have approximately 70 full-time Masters and Ph.D. students on campus, and 25 to 30 faculty members who are actively engaged with graduate student research. The favorable student/faculty ratio allows students to develop professional relationships with their major advisor and with other faculty. Collaboration among students and faculty is considered integral to the program and every effort is made to foster students' research interests and to match their area of focus with faculty research efforts.

Professional Development

The Department of Agricultural Economics places strong emphasis on the professional development of its graduate students. Numerous opportunities exist for students to develop their professional skill set. Students are strongly encouraged to present papers at professional meetings, assist in outreach programs, teach in the classroom, and publish in academic journals. With a strong foundation in Economics, mentoring by faculty, and numerous opportunities to polish professional skills, our graduating students have pursued successful careers in academia, government, and agribusiness.

DEGREE OPTIONS

Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics

The Ph.D. program consists of 90-credit hours, and for students entering with a MS degree, the program can be completed in 36 months.

Ph.D. graduates have obtained academic positions at institutions including Colorado State, University of Florida, University of Georgia, Iowa State, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Purdue, University of Tennessee, Utah State, Western Illinois, American University of Kuwait, National Chung Hsing University-Taiwan, University of Puerto Rico, Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology, and University of Western Australia. Ph.D. graduates are also employed in administrative & research positions with the United Soybean Board, Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Union of Concerned Scientists, Monsanto, IFPRI, Grant Thornton LLP, and many other agencies/firms.

Specialties are offered in:

- Agribusiness
- Community and Regional Economics
- International Development/Trade/Policy
- Natural Resources
- Price Analysis/Marketing
- Production/Farm Management/Finance

M.S. in Agricultural Economics & M.S. in Agricultural Economics: Concentration in Agribusiness

The MS programs are offered in both Thesis (30 credit hour) and Non-Thesis (36 hour) options. The program can be completed in three or four semesters.

Among recent employers of MS graduates are firms such as Cargill, Smithfield Foods, JBS, National Beef, MetLife, CME, Koch Industries, Rabo Agrifinance, CattleFax, INTL FCStone, American AgCredit, and Informa Economics.

MAB: Master of Agribusiness

The MAB is an executive-style distance education program for food, animal health and agribusiness professionals delivered via distance technology and four one-week campus sessions. Current students and alumni reside in 40 states and 30 countries. For more information and how to apply see mab.k-state.edu.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

How to Apply

Before applying, check to see if you meet the University's admission requirements and ensure that you have all the required application materials listed below. Your application can be submitted via the application portal on the Graduate School website. [Click here](#) to begin your online application or type this link into your internet browser <https://www.applyweb.com/kstateg/index.ftl>

Deadlines

Students can enter the program starting either in Fall (August) or Spring (January). Applications may be submitted at any time; however, to get full consideration for funding, applications should be submitted by **January 8 for Fall admission** and by **August 1 for Spring admission**. International students must apply by these dates to allow sufficient time for visa processing. We accept applications after these dates (up to May 1 for Fall admission, October 1 for Spring admission) for domestic students only, but please note that initial funding allocations are made in January and August.

Required Application Materials

The Department of Agricultural Economics requires the following for all applicants:

1. A carefully prepared two-page statement of objectives for graduate study
2. A current resume
3. Names and contact information for three references familiar with your academic work, from whom we will request letters of recommendation. If you have a M.S. degree, at least one letter should be from someone familiar with your M.S. program.
4. GRE scores. The institution code for Kansas State University is 6334. GRE scores are valid for 5 years.
5. Transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate coursework. If the transcript is not in English, you will also need to upload a copy of an official translation. If you are admitted, the Graduate School will require you to submit original, official transcripts.

Additional Requirements for International Applicants

International applicants are required to provide evidence of English proficiency and an Affidavit of Financial Support. Please see the following page for additional details about international applications.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Persons who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents are required to provide evidence of proficiency in the English language and an Affidavit of Financial Support. Additional information for international applicants can be found at [K-State Graduate School website](#).

English Proficiency Requirement

The Graduate School requires each international applicant whose native language is not English to demonstrate competence in the English language by achieving a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). An official report of the scores must be sent to Kansas State University. The K-State TOEFL school code is 6334. The TOEFL is required to ensure that the student's progress towards a degree is not jeopardized by language barriers. An applicant who has received a degree in the last two years from a United States college or university is exempt from this requirement.

Score requirements

Internet Based TOEFL (iBT) must have a minimum total score of 79. For acceptance into our program, we do not require a minimum speaking score. However, to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) a minimum speaking score of 22 is required.

Paper Based TOEFL (PBT) must have a minimum total score of 550.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) must have a minimum total score of 6.5.

Pearson Test of English (PTE) must have a minimum total score of 58.

If you do not meet the English Proficiency score requirements you are still eligible to be admitted into Kansas State University. However, you will be admitted as a non-degree seeking student and be required to take additional English language coursework in your first semester of enrollment to satisfy these English Proficiency Requirements. Once you have satisfied the English Proficiency Requirements you may be accepted into our program. Alternatives to the TOEFL and additional details about the English proficiency requirements are listed on the [K-State Graduate School website](#).

Financial Affidavit

International applicants must also complete the Financial Affidavit portion of the application. You will be prompted with a series of questions and based on your answers you will be asked to upload the appropriate documents to your application if needed.

ADMISSION & FUNDING

Selection

We begin reviewing applications immediately following the deadline and start making offers in February and March for Fall Admission and in September and October for spring admission. To give yourself the best chance of acceptance, make sure your application is complete.

For M.S. Applications

All applications are evaluated by the Department of Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee. The committee reviews all of the required application materials when making recommendations for admission (and funding). We do not have specific GPA or GRE scores that guarantee either admission or denial of admission. However, given the importance of quantitative skills in our graduate program, the committee will pay close attention to the GRE quantitative score. The committee will also look for evidence that applicants have background training and/or coursework in calculus, statistics, and intermediate level microeconomics.

For Ph.D. Applications

All applications are evaluated by the Department of Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee. Applicants to the Ph.D. will typically have obtained or be enrolled in a MS degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, or a related discipline. Applicants with a BS or BA degree may also apply to the Ph.D. program. To be admitted they will, at a minimum, have all of the necessary qualifications for admission to the MS program, but will also show evidence of higher levels of achievement in economic theory, calculus, and statistics. Applicants who do not meet the requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program may be granted admission to the MS program.

Assistantship Funding

We offer graduate assistantships on a competitive basis to the most highly qualified applicants. Assistantships cover tuition and provide a stipend, and are available to both domestic and international students. Over 90 percent of our on-campus students have assistantship funding. If you are selected for an assistantship you will be notified in an offer letter from the Department.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Jason Bergtold | Graduate Director

bergtold@k-state.edu | 785-532-0984

Kansas State University | 307 Waters Hall | Manhattan, KS 66506

ageconomics.k-state.edu/grad