

**Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Graduate Student Policy and Procedures**

**Academic Year
2023 – 2024**

All earlier versions of this handbook are considered null and void for students first matriculating in the 2023-2024 academic year. Current students who have matriculated in an earlier academic year may adhere to the policies contained in this document or that of the academic year of their initial matriculation.

Interim Department Head

Greg Colson 301 Conner, (706) 542-2481 gcolson@uga.edu

Administrative Specialist (Office Manager)

Catherine Young 301 Conner, (706) 542-2481, youngcat@uga.edu

Graduate Coordinator

Chen Zhen 314B Conner, (706) 542-0766, czhen@uga.edu

Graduate Program Administrator

Laura Alfonso 304 Conner, (706) 542-0744, lalfonso@uga.edu

Graduate Committee

Craig Landry 313D Conner, (706) 542-0747, clandry@uga.edu
 Ellen McCullough 315B Conner, (706) 542-0765, emccullough@uga.edu
 Travis Smith 313C Conner, (706) 542-0758, tasmith@uga.edu
 Berna Karali 315E Conner, (706) 542-0750, bkarali@uga.edu

MAB Committee

Ben Campbell, **MAB Program Director** 208 Conner, (706) 542-0852, bencamp@uga.edu
 Cesar Escalante 313E Conner, (706) 542-0740, cescalan@uga.edu
 Will Secor 312B Conner, (706) 542-3577, wsecor@uga.edu

Graduate Placement Officer

Craig Landry 313D Conner, (706) 542-0747, clandry@uga.edu

Computer Support

Chris Peters Lumpkin House, (706) 542-0736, cpeters@uga.edu

Graduate School Website/Department Website

www.grad.uga.edu

www.caes.uga.edu/departments/agecon/

Graduate Student Policy and Procedures
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

PREFACE	4
History	4
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics	4
Department’s Graduate Programs.....	4
Graduate School’s Policy and Procedures	5
Professionalism and Ethics	5
Academic Honesty	5
Admission	5
Programs of Study	6
Departmental Seminars	6
Financial Assistance	7
Length of Time and Remuneration	8
Work Schedule.....	8
Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Student Association	8
Department Services Available to Graduate Students	9
Supplies.....	9
Use of Departmental Equipment	9
Telephones.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Exit Interviews	9
Research Collaboration.....	10
M.S. Degree Programs	10
Prerequisites.....	10
Advisory Committee.....	10
Program of Study.....	11
Sample of First Fall Semester M.S. Courses	12
M.S. Degree in Agricultural & Applied Economics.....	15
Specific Course Requirements.....	15
M.S. Degree in Environmental Economics	16
Specific Course Requirements.....	16
Check List for M.S. Degree.....	17
M.A.B. Degree	18
Curriculum Requirements	18
Prerequisites.....	16
Program of Study.....	18
Sample of First Fall Semester M.A.B. Courses	19
Requirements.....	17
Check List for M.A.B. Degree	22
Ph.D. Degree	23
Advisory Committee.....	23
Requirements.....	21
Seminars.....	26
Examinations for the Ph.D.....	27
Written Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations.....	27
Oral Comprehensive Qualifying Examination.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Admission to Candidacy.....	29
Final Oral Examination/Defense	30
Sample Ph.D. Curriculum.....	31
Check List for Ph.D. Degree	33

PREFACE

The *Graduate Student Policy and Procedures* handbook is provided as a supplement to the *Graduate School Bulletin* and should be referred to for all graduate student policy and procedural matters approved and established by the faculty in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. It should be emphasized that this document is not intended to duplicate material provided in other Graduate School documents. Students should continue to refer to the *Graduate School Bulletin* for all university policy and procedural matters. As a complement to the university's policy and procedures, this document describes unique departmental policy and procedures¹.

History

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

The department was organized in 1928, and during its early years the faculty was small, varying from two to five members. Due to a lack of funding, the department was closed in 1933 and agricultural economics classes were offered in the Franklin College Department of Commerce. A year later, the department was reestablished in the College of Agriculture and the faculty began to grow, expanding roles into research, outreach, and graduate education.

Department's Graduate Programs

After World War II, the M.S. program greatly expanded with the influx of military veterans and has continued throughout its existence to be a very active and solid program. In 1971, the Ph.D. program was established, offering a strong complement to the M.S., research, and outreach programs within the department. In 1999, the M.S. was split into an M.S. in agricultural economics and an M.S. in environmental economics. This was followed in 2009 with the establishment of the Masters in Agribusiness degree.

¹ As changes to this document may occur in the future, students should refer to the handbook associated with the academic year for which they were admitted to their current degree objective. Students may also follow the policies and procedures of a handbook associated with a subsequent academic year.

Graduate School Policy and Procedures

Refer to the [Graduate School Bulletin](#) and the [Graduate School](#)'s web site (www.grad.uga.edu) for all university policy, procedures, and Graduate School forms. Department policy and procedures outlined below do not override any of the university's. Instead they are designed to supplement university policy. *It is the responsibility of the student to meet all university and department requirements.*

Professionalism and Ethics

Academic Honesty

The University of Georgia seeks to promote and ensure academic honesty and personal integrity among students and other members of the University community. All students at The University of Georgia are expected to read and comply with [A Culture of Honesty](#), the University's academic honesty policy.

A student participating in any dishonest activity will be subjected to academic dismissal. Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Admission

For admission the following are sent to the Graduate School:

- Admission application
- Current resume
- Statement of Purpose
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (GMAT scores may substitute for the GRE for the MAB applicants only)
- Three letters of reference

International students must also submit official TOEFL or IELTS scores that satisfy the Graduate School minimum requirements². All of these factors are taken into account by the departmental Graduate Committee as it considers an application.

Programs of Study

The graduate programs in Agricultural and Applied Economics offer flexibility in meeting individual student interests and backgrounds so students can prepare for careers in industry, government, or academia. As a foundation for this preparation, all students first obtain a core understanding of economic theory and quantitative skills. Based on this core, student programs are then designed to address the individual research topics and interests of students. This results in all students acquiring the following tools once they complete their degree programs:

1. Proficiency in problem-solving methodology (research methods) including professional ethics.
2. Ability to apply economic theory and quantitative techniques to the analysis and solution of contemporary problems and issues.
3. Proficiency in conducting independent research and the development of a high order of independent thought.
4. Capacity to read, synthesize, and critically evaluate literature in economics.
5. Ability to work and communicate effectively with diverse groups and audiences.
6. Broad knowledge base and understanding of applied economics.

Departmental Seminars

The department conducts a seminar program during the regular school year. The department seminar is core component of the department's intellectual life, and students are expected to participate fully in it. Seminars are usually held at a regular scheduled date and time each semester. Graduate students are

² Applicants who have received degrees from accredited institutions in the U.S. or from institutions in countries where English is the primary language usually are not required to submit the TOEFL (or IELTS) scores. See [English Proficiency Requirement](#) for details.

required to register for one credit hour of AAEC 8010 seminar each fall and spring semester during their graduate program. Once they have entered candidacy, PhD students are exempt from this requirement.

Financial Assistance

Funds are available through the department for graduate research/teaching assistantships. Graduate assistantships provide productive and rewarding experiences that enhance a student's academic and professional development. They contribute both to the educational goals of a graduate student and the research, teaching, and extension programs of the department. These assistantships represent both an opportunity and a responsibility for the recipient. The department is sensitive to the dual roles of a graduate assistant as both a student and a temporary university employee. If you would like to be considered for an assistantship, there is a check-box on the application form to indicate your interest.

Research assistantships are to support faculty-led research initiatives in the department. MS and PhD students receiving financial assistance may be assigned to serve as teaching assistants, depending on the needs of the department. All students receiving a departmental assistantship must complete the Graduate School's training course for teaching assistants, GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E. This course is required as part of an assistantship but does not count toward completion of degree requirements. GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E must be taken during the first semester a student is enrolled in one of the department's graduate programs.

First year graduate student assistants are assigned by the department head to a faculty member who serves as their assistantship supervisor. Students are required to spend the hours corresponding to their assistantship on assignments as determined through conversations with their assistantship supervisor. Such assignments will involve short-term projects or tasks, including acting as a teaching assistant or supervising the undergraduate computer lab, depending on the current demands facing the faculty. The department head will make an effort to place graduate students with a faculty member whose expertise aligns with the student's primary field of academic interest.

Students must select a major professor to serve as their research advisor. This process involves contacting prospective major professors and discussing possible mutual academic/research interests. The

graduate coordinator provides advice on selection of a permanent major professor and considers the expressed desires of the student and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. The timing of the selection of a major professor depends on the student's degree objective (see below).

Upon selection of a major professor, graduate students can request to change assistantship supervisors; the request will be granted if both the current supervisor and the proposed supervisor agree. As a student progresses through their graduate program, the emphasis of their graduate assistantship is often, but not necessarily, on work related to their thesis or dissertation. The department head may at any point assign departmentally funded graduate assistants to other research, teaching, or support tasks.

Length of Time and Remuneration

Assistantships are awarded for a specific contractual period. Students making normal progress toward their degree objective who remain in "good standing" (defined in degree descriptions below) will be considered for renewal of their assistantship. However, failure to i) meet academic standards, ii) satisfactorily fulfill assistantship assignments as determined by their assistantship supervisor, and/or iii) meet specific policy requirements may result in revocation or nonrenewal of an assistantship.

Work Schedule

The time commitment for an assistantship is communicated by the department head in your offer letter. A regular work schedule should be prepared under supervision of the assistantship supervisor if the student is on assistantship. A graduate student on an assistantship is considered a regular employee of the department. University office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, exclusive of holidays. Students receiving funding for projects headquartered outside the Athens campus should be prepared to travel to project headquarters as necessary.

Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association was organized in 1969. The purpose of this organization is to serve as a liaison between graduate students and the faculty of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The graduate students may meet to discuss academic issues or problems and recommend

reforms. The association encourages fellowship among students and faculty by organizing seminars, athletic events, and social gatherings. The exchange of ideas and the promotion of academic excellence are fostered through the graduate student outstanding paper awards, outstanding faculty award, and the annual Ron Ziemer symposium. All students are urged to support the Graduate Student Association by regular attendance and active participation.

Department Services Available to Graduate Students

Within the limit of resources available, the department attempts to provide support to students in the form of supplies, equipment, facilities, and staff services.

Supplies

The department will provide all necessary supplies, as determined by the assistantship supervisor, directly associated with the student's teaching and research assistantship activities. Supplies cannot be furnished, however, for general coursework or for personal use.

Use of Departmental Equipment

Computers and other equipment necessary for teaching or research are provided. This equipment represents a significant investment and annual operating expense for the department. Graduate students should become familiar with the proper operation and care of this equipment. Rooms in which this equipment is available should be locked after hours. Any malfunctioning of a piece of equipment should be reported to the computer support staff in order that proper servicing can be obtained. Do not load unauthorized programs onto any departmental computers, either in the lab or student offices. See a member of computer support staff and your major professor to obtain permission to load computer programs.

Exit Interviews

At the end of students' graduate program, they have an opportunity to meet with the department head for exit interviews. These interviews should be scheduled around two weeks prior to completing the

program, and provide an opportunity to comment and offer suggestions on how the graduate program can be improved. The opportunity also exists for completing a confidential questionnaire on the graduate program.

Research Collaboration

The educational training and professional opportunities of graduate students can be significantly enhanced by working collaboratively with faculty on research projects. Such collaboration normally occurs as a result of graduate assistantship research and thesis or dissertation research. When it does not interfere with assigned graduate assistantship duties or orderly and timely completion of a thesis or dissertation, graduate students are also encouraged to work collaboratively with faculty on research and professional publications not necessarily related to a student's graduate assistantship duties or thesis/dissertation. Graduate students should keep their major professor informed of any papers that they submit to meetings or journals, whether or not they are co-authored with the major professor.

M.S. Degree Programs

M.S. degree programs require 35 hours: a minimum of 29 hours of coursework, 3 hours of AAEC 7000 (Research), and 3 hours of AAEC 7300 (Thesis). Although a student will register for more than three hours of research, only three hours may be used to meet degree requirements. Students must register for 3 hours of AAEC 7300 the semester they graduate. *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must be registered for 18 total credit hours every semester in which they are funded.* Generally, this consists of classes and 2 to 6 research credit hours (AAEC 7000 and/or AAEC 7300).

Each graduate student pursuing an M.S. degree must have an approved advisory committee consisting of a major professor from the department with graduate faculty status as chair, and two or more additional members, at least one of whom must have graduate faculty status. At least one of the additional members must also be a member of the department faculty.

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics, or econometrics are prerequisites for the M.S. program. Econometrics, intermediate macroeconomics, and linear algebra are recommended for the M.S. program. Any student not meeting these prerequisites that is accepted into the M.S. program will take coursework, identified through consultation with the graduate coordinator, to meet the requirements prior to beginning the program.

Advisory Committee. Selection of an advisory committee is based on the expressed desires of the student and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. The graduate coordinator is available for consultation. However, it is the responsibility of the student to find a major professor to serve as chair and help form an advisory committee. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the research programs of faculty early in their first semester. Students can then request to meet with faculty to discuss possible research opportunities.

Final approval of the committee is made by the Dean of the Graduate School after review and approval by the graduate coordinator. The major professor and at least one other member must be a member of the graduate faculty. The advisory committee form must be submitted to the Graduate School by the end of the student's second semester. The form is available on the [Graduate School website](#).

Program of Study. A student's program of study (courses) and thesis outline are developed in consultation with his or her advisory committee. This program of study is subject to approval by the graduate coordinator and Dean of the Graduate School. The minimum residence requirement is one academic year. A student's program of study should be approved by the graduate coordinator no later than the beginning of finals week in the second semester. The program of study form is also available on the [Graduate School website](#). All graduate students must meet with their major advisor to develop a course plan for the upcoming semester. *Any deviation from the course plan must be approved by the major advisor.* While an advisory committee will provide guidance in initiating a thesis and in conducting the research, the responsibility for the completion of the thesis is entirely that of the graduate student. The normal time for completing an acceptable M.S. thesis is six months full-time. From the thesis, a student is required to prepare, with the supervision and assistance of the advisory committee, a

manuscript for publication. All master's students are required to give a defense/oral presentation in the department on their thesis research prior to their graduation. The defense must be scheduled with the graduate program administrator at least two weeks in advance. All M.S. students are expected but not required to present a paper or poster at a professional conference at least once before graduation.

Good Standing for MS Students

In addition to meeting the requirements for graduation there are several milestones that must be achieved in a timely manner for MS students to remain in good standing with respect to the pursuit of their degree objective. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to other departmental resources. To remain in good standing MS students must:

1. Submit thesis committee form to the Graduate School before the end of the second semester.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 across the following courses: AAEC 6580, AAEC 6580L, AAEC 6610, AAEC 6610L, AAEC 6590, and AAEC 6620.
3. During the first 2 semesters upon entering into the M.S. program earn a C in each of the following courses in addition to obtaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 across all of the following courses: AAEC 6580, AAEC 6580L, AAEC 6610, AAEC 6610L, AAEC 6590, and AAEC 6620.
4. Satisfactory completion of all RA/TA assignments every semester.
5. Satisfactory completion of a GRSC 7001 GradFIRST seminar during one of their first 2 semesters.
6. Students on assistantship must also satisfactorily complete a GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E Graduate Teaching Seminar during their first semester.

First Fall Semester M.S. Courses

AAEC 6580-6580L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I	4 hours
AAEC 6610-6610L Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics	4 hours
AAEC 8010 Seminar Program	1 hour
Elective or ENVM 6650 Environmental Economics	3 hours
AAEC 7000 Research	4-6 hours
GRSC 7770 or 7770E Graduate Teaching Seminar (if on assistantship)	1-2 hours
GRSC 7001 GradFIRST Seminar (in Fall or Spring)	1 hour

In their first semester and until their major professor has been determined, if the student is not already picked up by a professor as a research assistant, students must register for AAEC 7000 research hours

under the section for the professor assigned to the student by the graduate coordinator (Dr. Chen Zhen). Once a student has found a major professor, future AAEC 7000 research hours will be registered under the section for the major professor.

Students are encouraged to register for a GRSC 7001 seminar section that is taught by a member of the department faculty. If no member of the department faculty is teaching a GRSC 7001 seminar then students can select from the available sections.

Students are encouraged to review syllabi and register for a GRSC 7770 or 7770E section that is not focused on instruction for laboratory sciences. GRSC 7770 or 7770E is required for students receiving an assistantship.

First Spring Semester M.S. Courses

AAEC 6590-6590L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I	4 hours
AAEC 6620 Applied Econometrics	4 hours
AAEC 8010 Seminar Program	1 hour
AAEC 7000 Research	1-8 hours
GRSC 7001 GradFIRST Seminar (if not taken in Fall)	1 hour
Electives	3-8hours

Courses in the remaining semesters will vary depending on the requirements in a particular M.S. program and the student's graduate advisory committee. *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must be registered for 18 total credit hours every semester in which they are funded.* Generally, this consists of classes and 2 to 6 research credit hours (AAEC 7000 and/or AAEC 7300). Table 1 lists the graduate courses offered by the department.

Table 1. Graduate Level Courses*

Course	Title
AAEC 6050	Agribusiness Law
AAEC(ENVM) 6510	Land Economics
AAEC 6570	Economic Tools for Agribusiness
AAEC 6580-6580L	Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I
AAEC 6590-6590L	Microeconomics: Theory with Applications II
AAEC6610-6610L	Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics
AAEC 6620	Applied Econometrics
AAEC 6630E	Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness
AAEC 6640	Food, Marketing and Merchandising
ENVM 6650	Environmental Economics
AAEC(ENVM) 6710	Rural Economic Development and Growth
AAEC 6730	Accounting for Agribusiness
AAEC 6740E	Agribusiness Finance
ENVM 6800	Water Resource Economics and Management
AAEC 6870	Futures and Options Markets
ENVM(AAEC) 6930	Environmental Law and Governmental Regulation
AAEC 6960	International Agricultural Trade
AAEC 6980	Agribusiness Management
FANR(AAEC) 7860	Natural Resource Economics I
AAEC 8080	Production Economics
AAEC 8100	Nonmarket Economic Valuation Techniques and Applications
AAEC 8140	Consumer Demand Theory
AAEC 8150	Experiment and Survey Design
AAEC 8210	Macroeconomics Issues in Agricultural and Natural Resources
AAEC 8260	Food Policy
AAEC 8300	Agricultural Economics Research
AAEC 8350	PhD 2 nd Year Paper
AAEC 8500	Price Analysis
AAEC 8610	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Economists
AAEC(ECOL) 8700	Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis
AAEC 8710	Agricultural Development and Growth Analysis
AAEC 8750	Natural Resource Economics II

*Masters students must get permission from instructor before enrolling in Ph.D. 8000 level courses.

M.S. Degree in Agricultural & Applied Economics

Requirements

- A. Theory and quantitative requirements (19 hours)
 - AAEC 6580-6580L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I (4 hours)
 - AAEC 6590-6590L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications II (4 hours)
 - AAEC 6610-6610L Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics (4 hours)
 - AAEC 6620 Applied Econometrics (4 hours)
 - AAEC 6960 International Agricultural Trade (3 hours)
- B. AAEC - 9 hours minimum, 6000 or above from Table 1. These hours cannot include the theory and quantitative requirements, AAEC 7300, or AAEC 7000.
- C. AAEC 8010 Seminar Program (1 hour can count toward the 29-hour minimum), including successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.
- D. Successful completion of GRSC 7001 in the first year and, if on assistantship, successful completion of GRSC 7770 in the first semester.
- E. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of your first academic semester.
- F. Preparation of an acceptable thesis.
- G. Preparation of a draft article for publication in an academic journal.
- H. Presentation of a thesis seminar.
- I. Passing of a final oral examination.

M.S. Degree in Environmental Economics

Prerequisite/Co-requisite ENVM(AAEC) 4930/6930 Environmental Law and Governmental Regulation or equivalent. (Note: this does not count toward your 29 hours of course work.)

Requirements

A. Theory and quantitative requirements (22 hours)

AAEC 6580-6580L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I (4 hours)
 AAEC 6590-6590L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications II (4 hours)
 AAEC 6610-6610L Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics (4 hours)
 AAEC 6620 Applied Econometrics (4 hours)
 FANR/AAEC 7860 Natural Resource Economics I (3 hours)
 ENVM 6650 Environmental Economics (3 hours)

B. Concentration Course Electives (6 hours) -- choose at least 2 courses from below:

AAEC(ENVM) 6510 Land Economics (3 hours)
 ENVM 6800 Water Resource Economics and Management (3 hours)
 AAEC 8100 Nonmarket Economic Valuation Techniques and Applications (3 hours)
 AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design (3 hours)
 AAEC 8210 Macroeconomic Issues in Agricultural and Natural Resources (3 hours)
 AAEC(ECOL) 8700 Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis (3 hours)
 AAEC 8750 Natural Resource and Environmental Economics II (3 hours)

C. AAEC 8010 Seminar Program (1 hour can count toward the 29-hour minimum),

including successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.

D. Successful completion of GRSC 7001 in the first year and, if on assistantship, successful

completion of GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E in the first semester.

E. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to

Social and Behavioral Research before the end of your first academic semester.

F. Preparation of an acceptable thesis.

G. Preparation of a draft article for publication in an academic journal.

H. Presentation of a thesis seminar.

I. Passing of a final oral examination.

Check List for M.S. Degree

Check the Graduate School website for all deadlines. Forms must be submitted by deadline dates. Meeting deadlines are entirely the student's responsibility and students will not be informed or reminded of these deadlines.

Date Completed:

1. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Advisory Committee for Master of Arts and Master of Science Candidates form](#) by the end of second semester in residence.
2. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Program of Study for Master of Arts and Master of Science Candidates form](#) by the end of second semester in residence.³
3. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed *Application for Graduation (on Athena)* by the deadline posted [on the Graduate School website](#).
4. _____ Thesis submitted to advisory committee at least two weeks prior to date of thesis defense.
5. _____ Electronically submit the thesis to the Graduate School for a format check before the deadline posted [on the Graduate School website](#) of the graduation semester.
6. _____ Thesis defense. A two-week notice must be given to the Graduate Program Administrator.
7. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\) Submission Approval form](#) by the deadline posted [on the Graduate School website](#).
8. _____ Complete exit survey and interview with department head.
9. _____ Return office key to graduate program administrator.

³ A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained across all graduate courses taken and no course grade below 2.0 will be accepted as part of the program of study.

M.A.B. Degree

The Master of Agribusiness (M.A.B.) is aimed at preparing students for a successful career in the field of agribusiness by developing a high degree of competence in all fields related to agribusiness management and decision making.

Curriculum Requirements. The M.A.B. degree requires 34 hours of coursework along with a technical paper. *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must be registered for 18 total credit hours every semester in which they are funded.* Generally, this consists of classes and 2 to 6 research credit hours (AAEC 7000 and/or AAEC 7300).

Each graduate student pursuing an M.A.B. degree must have an approved advisory committee consisting of at least two members. The committee chair must be a member of the AAEC faculty and the Graduate Faculty; the second member can come from any department within the University of Georgia. The committee must be chosen before the end of the first semester. Selection of the advisory committee is based on the expressed desires of the student and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. Final approval of the committee is made by the graduate coordinator. The advisory committee form must be submitted to the graduate program administrator. A unified set of courses that constitutes a logical whole – a student's Program of Study – must be selected by the student in consultation with the student's advisory committee.

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics or econometrics are prerequisites for the M.A.B. program. Econometrics, intermediate macroeconomics, and linear algebra are recommended. ~~Any student not meeting these prerequisites will take coursework to meet the requirements in addition to the 34-hour minimum.~~ Any student not meeting these prerequisites that is accepted into the M.A.B. program will take coursework, identified through consultation with the graduate coordinator, to meet the requirements prior to beginning the program.

Program of Study. A student's program of study and outline of a technical paper are developed in consultation with his or her advisory committee. This program of study is subject to approval by the graduate coordinator and the dean of the Graduate School. The minimum residence requirement is one

academic year. A student's program of study should be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the end of the second semester. The [Program of Study \(Non-Doctoral Professional Degrees\)](#) is available on the Graduate School website. All graduate students must meet with their major advisor to develop a course plan for the upcoming semester. *Any deviation from the course plan must be approved by the major advisor.* While an advisory committee will provide guidance in initiating a technical paper and in conducting the research, the responsibility for the completion of the paper is entirely that of the graduate student. The normal time for completing an acceptable paper is one semester. All M.A.B. students are required to give an oral presentation in the department on their technical paper prior to their graduation. The presentation must be scheduled with the graduate program administrator in advance in order to secure the necessary paperwork.

Good Standing for MAB Students

In addition to meeting the requirements for graduation there are several milestones that must be achieved in a timely manner for MAB students to remain in good standing with respect to the pursuit of their degree objective. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to other departmental resources. To remain in good standing MAB students must:

1. Submit advisory committee form to the graduate program coordinator and the graduate program administrator before the end of the second semester.
2. Satisfactory completion of all RA assignments every semester.

Sample of First Fall Semester M.A.B. Courses

AAEC 6630E Quantitative Tools for Business Decisions	3 hours
AAEC 6640 Food Marketing and Merchandising	3 hours
AAEC 6740E Agribusiness Finance	3 hours
AAEC 6730 Accounting for Agribusiness	3 hours
AAEC 7000 Research	7 hours

Sample of First Spring Semester M.A.B. Courses

AAEC 6570 Economic Tools for Business Decisions	3 hours
---	---------

20

AAEC 6980 Agribusiness Management
Elective
Elective

3 hours
3 hours
3 hours

Sample of Final Semester M.A.B. Courses

AAEC 7310 Topics in Agricultural and Applied Economics (business plan)
Elective
Elective

3 hours
3 hours
3 hours

Requirements

- A. Business management and quantitative requirements (22 hours)
- AAEC 6570 Economic Tools for Business Decisions (3 hours)
 - AAEC 6630E Quantitative Tools for Business Decisions (3 hours)
 - AAEC 6640 Food, Marketing and Merchandising (3 hours)
 - AAEC 6740E Agribusiness Finance (3 hours)
 - AAEC 6980 Agribusiness Management (3 hours)
 - AAEC 7310 Topics in Agricultural and Applied Economics (comprehensive business plan) (3 hours)
 - AAEC 7000 Master's Research (1 hour)
 - AAEC 8020 Accounting for Agribusiness (3 hours)
- B. Concentration Course Electives (12 hours)
-- choose four courses from below or other courses approved by student's advisory committee:
- AAEC 6870 Futures and Options Markets
 - AAEC (ENVM) 6510 Land Economics
 - ENVM 6650 Environmental Economics
 - AAEC(ENVM) 6710 Rural Economic Development and Growth
 - AAEC 6050 Agribusiness Law
 - ENVM 6800 Water Resource Economics and Management
 - AAEC 8210 Macroeconomic Issues in Agricultural and Natural Resources
 - AAEC 6960 International Agricultural Marketing and Trade (3 hours)
 - MARK 7150 Marketing Research Planning Management and Communication
- C. A technical paper based on the student's work in AAEC 7310 (in lieu of a thesis) is required. The subject and structure of the technical paper will be developed in consultation with the student's advisory committee. This paper must be approved by the student's advisory committee and a report of satisfactory achievement must be filed with the Graduate School before the deadline posted on the [Graduate School website](#).
- D. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of the first academic semester.

Check List for M.A.B. Degree

Check the Graduate School website for all deadlines. Forms must be submitted by deadline dates. Meeting deadlines are entirely the student's responsibility and students will not be informed or reminded of these deadlines.

Date Completed:

1. ___ Submit to the graduate coordinator and graduate program administrator the completed [Advisory Committee for Master of Agribusiness form](#) by the end of first semester in residence. This is filed in the department.
2. ___ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Program of Study \(Non-Doctoral Professional Degrees\)](#) form (on Graduate School website) before the beginning of finals week of the second semester in residence.¹
3. ___ Submit to the Graduate School the online *Application for Graduation* ([on Athena](#)) by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#).
4. ___ Submit to the ~~Graduate School~~ graduate program coordinator or the graduate program administrator the completed [Approval Form for Technical Report](#) by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#) (final defense approval form date).
5. ___ Complete exit survey and interview with department head.
6. ___ Return office key to graduate program administrator.

¹A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained across all graduate courses taken and no course grade below 2.0 will be accepted as part of the program of study.

Ph.D. Degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics

The Ph.D. degree requires 43 hours of course work as described in the Course Requirements below, plus three hours of dissertation credits (AAEC 9300) and preparation of an acceptable dissertation. A total of 60 credit hours are required for graduation. The additional 14 hours may come from research hours (AAEC 9000) and/or additional graduate-level course work beyond the bachelor's degree. *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must be registered for 18 total credit hours every semester in which they are funded.* Generally, this consists of classes and 2 to 6 research credit hours (AAEC 9000 and/or AAEC 9300).

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics, or econometrics are prerequisites for the Ph.D. program. Master's level microeconomics, econometrics, and macroeconomics along with mathematical statistics and linear algebra are recommended for the Ph.D. program. Note that ECON 8000 is a required course for the PhD degree. It also serves as a prerequisite for ECON 8010, another required course. ECON 8000 begins in mid-July and meets daily for 3 weeks. All in-coming PhD students should arrange to arrive on campus no later than the beginning of July in order to attend ECON 8000.

Second-Year Paper.

Ph.D. students will enroll in a sequence of three courses designed to develop publishable research by the end of their second year in the program. The first course of the sequence (AAEC 8350) will be in spring semester of year one, the second course (AAEC 8351) in summer of year one, and the third (AAEC 8352) through fall semester of year two. All Ph.D. students must declare a second-year paper advisor by the end of the first course (AAEC 8350). All Ph.D. students, working with one or more faculty members, must prepare a manuscript for publication from these courses. To remain in good standing, the manuscript must be approved by the student's second-year paper advisor before the start of their second summer of residence.

Advisory Committee. During the first semester, students should interact with faculty and discover areas of shared interest. For the first two semesters, students will ordinarily be advised by their assistantship

supervisors or the temporarily assigned major professors. Each graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. degree must have an approved advisory committee consisting of the major professor as chair and two or more additional members. Selection of the advisory committee is based on the expressed desires of the student and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. Final approval of the committee is made by the dean of the Graduate School after review and approval by the graduate coordinator. Changes in the major professor can be made only with the mutual agreement of the student, both old and new major professors, and the graduate coordinator. The major professor must be a member the AAE faculty and of the Graduate Faculty, and more than 50% of the advisory committee must be Graduate Faculty. The advisory committee, in consultation with the student, is responsible for planning the student's program of study and choosing a subject for the dissertation. As a matter of practice, most Ph.D. students will be expected to function as a teaching assistant at least two semesters during their program.

The [Advisory Committee form](#) (available on the Graduate School's website) must be submitted to the Graduate School after completion of the second year of residence (the end of the second summer semester enrolled), although students are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as practicable. While the advisory committee will guide the student in initiating the dissertation, the completion of the research and the dissertation is entirely the responsibility of the student. The preparation of a Ph.D. dissertation will normally require a minimum of 12 months full-time.

Program of Study. A [Program of Study](#), developed by the major professor and the student, and approved by the student's advisory committee, must be submitted to the Graduate School prior to notification of the oral comprehensive examination. Courses from the master's degree and courses taken at other universities should be listed in the "Relevant Master's or Other Graduate Degree Courses" section of the program of study form. All graduate students must meet with their major advisor to develop a course plan for the upcoming semester. *Any deviation from the course plan must be approved by the major advisor.*

Course Requirements

A. Course requirements (34 hours)

ECON 8000 Mathematical Analysis for Economists (3 hours)
AAEC 8010 Seminar in Agricultural and Applied Economics (1 hour)
ECON 8010 Microeconomic Theory I (3 hours)
ECON 8020 Microeconomic Theory II (3 hours)
ECON 8040 Macroeconomic Theory I (3 hours)
ECON 8070 Statistics for Econometrics or STAT 6510 Mathematical Statistics I (3 hours)
ECON 8080 Introduction to Econometrics (3 hours)
ECON 8110 Econometrics I or AAEC 8610 Advanced Quantitative Methods for
Economists (3 hours)
AAEC 8350 Research and Professional Development: Second Year Paper I (1 hour)
AAEC 8351 Directed Summer Reading: Second Year Paper II (1 hour)
AAEC 8352 Research and Professional Development: Second Year Paper III (1 hour)

Select three of the following six courses beyond the above required courses

AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design (3 hours)
AAEC 8260 Food Policy (3 hours)
AAEC 8610 Advanced Quantitative Methods for Economists (3 hours)
ECON 8110 Econometrics I (3 hours)
ECON 8120 Econometrics II or AAEC 8610 (3 hours)
ECON 8130 Time Series Econometrics or STAT 8280 Time Series Analysis (3 hours)

B. Three AAEC concentration course electives (9 hours):

- AAEC 8080 Production Economics (3 hours)
- AAEC 8100 Economic Valuation (3 hours)
- AAEC 8140 Consumer Demand Theory (3 hours)
- AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design (3 hours)
- AAEC 8210 Macroeconomics Issues in Agricultural and Natural Resources (3 hours)
- AAEC 8260 Food Policy (3 hours)
- AAEC 8300 Agricultural Economics Research (3 hours)
- AAEC 8500 Price Analysis (3 hours)
- AAEC 8610 Advanced Quantitative Methods for Economists (3 hours)
- AAEC 8700 Advanced Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis (3 hours)
- AAEC 8710 Advanced Agricultural Development and Growth (3 hours)
- AAEC 8750 Natural Resource Economics II (3 hours)

Suggested areas of concentration

Agricultural economics

- AAEC 8140 Consumer Demand Theory
- AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design

- AAEC 8400 Agricultural Market Structure and Analysis
- AAEC 8500 Price Analysis

Development economics

- AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design
- AAEC 8210 Macroeconomics Issues in Agricultural and Natural Resources
- AAEC 8710 Advanced Agricultural Development and Growth

Environmental and natural resource economics

- AAEC 8100 Economic Valuation
- AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design
- AAEC 8700 Advanced Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis
- AAEC 8750 Natural Resource Economics II

- C. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of the first academic semester.
- D. Successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.
- E. Successful completion of written and oral comprehensive qualifying examinations.

Seminars. All Ph.D. students are required to give at least two departmental seminars on their research.

Each student must present a prospectus seminar outlining the proposed dissertation research (problem statement, objectives, theory, possible data sources, and early results if available) prior to the

advancement to candidacy. The goal of this seminar is to allow for input from faculty and students that might improve the student's research program. Each student must also present a second seminar covering the results of the dissertation research prior to the dissertation defense. Both seminars must be scheduled through the graduate program administrator (~~Laura Alfonso~~) and require a two-week notice. As part of this training, students are also required to prepare, under the supervision of their major professors, manuscripts for publication based on their dissertation research.

A summary of requirements for completing the Ph.D. is listed below. A checklist of the administrative steps and deadlines pertaining to the Ph.D. degree is also provided.

Examinations for the Ph.D.

Written Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations

A student must pass the two written examinations within one year of entering the Ph.D. program or obtain a waiver from the Department Graduate Committee to delay sitting for the examinations. Specifically, waivers may be granted for part-time students or students beginning the Ph.D. program in the spring semester who are not receiving a research/teaching assistantship. In such cases, the student may not have completed enough coursework by the end of the spring semester to be eligible to take one or both of the examinations.

Econometrics Examination. This examination must be taken at the earliest opportunity following satisfactory completion (C or better) in STAT 6510/ECON 8070 and ECON 8080 or equivalent.

Microeconomics Examination. This examination must be taken at the earliest opportunity following satisfactory completion (C or better) of ECON 8010 and ECON 8020 or equivalent.

A departmental examining committee for each of the examinations will develop an examination to test the minimum level of competence required for Ph.D. students in Agricultural and Applied Economics. The committees will each be composed of three members appointed by the department chair. Terms of members will be three years with one of the members being appointed in alternate years. Consecutive terms of tenure are allowed.

The grading system employed by the departmental examining committees will encompass grades of fail, marginal fail, marginal pass, and pass. Committees will present a copy of the student's written examination and grade to the student's major professor and will present the student's original written examination and grade to the graduate coordinator within two weeks after the student has completed the examination. Students will be allowed a maximum of two attempts at passing each of the examinations. Students who do not pass either of the examinations by the second attempt will be immediately dismissed from the Ph.D. program by written notification of the graduate coordinator. From the date of dismissal, the student has the right to appeal the decision of the examining committee within 30 days to the Department Graduate Committee. The Department Graduate Committee has two weeks to notify the student in writing of its decision. From the date of notification by the Department Graduate Committee on the decision of the appeal, the student has 30 days to appeal to the College Graduate Committee.

The econometrics and microeconomics examinations will be offered one week apart after the spring semester has concluded and will be completed before the end of the second week in June. If necessary, the examinations will be offered again, one week apart, so as to be completed prior to the beginning of the ensuing fall semester.

After successfully passing the econometrics and microeconomics examinations, students are required to declare either applied economics or environmental economics as an area of emphasis, and within that emphasis pass any optional written examinations set by the student's advisory committee. The exact composition of questions and length will be determined by each advisory committee.

Dissertation Prospectus

Students will not be admitted to candidacy until they have an approved dissertation prospectus. A dissertation prospectus seminar should be presented to the department prior to official approval of the prospectus/oral comp exam by the Advisory Committee. The prospectus seminar must be scheduled with the graduate program administrator with a two-week notice. Regarding the timing of the prospectus defense, please refer to bullet 5 under "Good Standing for PhD students" on page 32.

Admission to Candidacy

Application of admission to candidacy is a certification by the student's department that the student has demonstrated ability to do acceptable doctoral work in the chosen field of study and that:

- a. All prerequisites set as a condition to admission into the program have been satisfactorily completed
- b. Research skill requirements have been met
- c. The final program of study has been approved by the advisory committee, the graduate coordinator, and the dean of the Graduate School
- d. A GPA of 3.0 (B) has been maintained on all graduate courses taken and completed courses are listed on the program of study (no course with a grade below C may be placed on the final program of study)
- e. Written and oral comprehensive examinations have been passed and reported to the Graduate School
- f. The advisory committee, including any necessary changes in the membership, is confirmed and all its members have been notified of their appointment
- g. A dissertation prospectus has been approved
- h. The residence requirement has been met
- i. Successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop

After admission to candidacy, a student must register for a combined total of ten hours of dissertation or other appropriate graduate credit during the completion of the degree program. Students planning to graduate the same semester they enter candidacy must be admitted to candidacy by the published deadline for candidacy during that semester and register for ten hours. A student must register for a minimum of three hours of credit in any semester when using university facilities, and/or faculty or staff time.

Final Oral Examination/Defense

The final oral examination/defense should be limited to not more than three hours in total length. In the event of a failure, the student's advisory committee has the option of scheduling one re-examination. The student must notify the Graduate School (through the graduate program administrator) two weeks prior to the final oral examination/defense.

Good Standing for PhD Students

In addition to meeting the requirements for graduation there are several milestones that must be achieved in a timely manner for PhD students to remain in good standing with respect to the pursuit of their degree objective. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to other departmental resources. To remain in good standing PhD students must:

1. Identify 2nd Year Paper Advisor before the end of the second semester.
2. Pass Econometrics and Microeconomics qualifying exams.
3. Have approval of completed 2nd Year Paper signed by paper advisor by end of the fourth semester (not including summers).
4. Submit dissertation committee form to the Graduate School before the end of the second summer semester.
5. Defend dissertation prospectus before the end of the sixth semester (not including summers). Note: students in good standing at this point will be informed of 4th year funding level upon successful defense of the prospectus.
6. Satisfactory completion of RA/TA responsibilities every semester, including completion of GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E during the first semester.
7. Satisfactory completion of a GRSC 7001 GradFIRST seminar during one of their first 2 semesters.

Standard Ph.D. Curriculum

First year

Fall semester

ECON 8000 Mathematical Analysis for Economists	3 hours
ECON 8010 Microeconomics Theory I	4 hours
ECON 8040 Macroeconomic Theory I	3 hours
ECON 8070 Statistics for Econometrics	3 hours
AAEC 9000 Research	3 hours
AAEC 8010 Seminar	1 hour
GRSC 7770 or GRSC 7770E Graduate Teaching Seminar	1 hour

In their first semester and until their major professor has been determined, students must register for AAEC 9000 research hours under the section for the professor assigned to the student by the graduate coordinator (Dr. Chen Zhen). Once a student has found a major professor, future AAEC 9000 research hours will be registered under the section for the major professor.

Students are encouraged to review syllabi and register for a GRSC 7770 or 7770E section that is not focused on instruction for laboratory sciences.

Spring semester

ECON 8020 Microeconomics Theory II	3 hours
ECON 8080 Introduction to Econometrics	3 hours
AAEC 8010 Seminar	1 hour
AAEC 8350 Second Year Paper I	1 hour
AAEC emphasis course or elective	3 hours
AAEC 9000 Research	6 hours
GRSC 7001 GradFirst Seminar	1 hour

Students are encouraged to register for a GRSC 7001 seminar section that is taught by a member of the department faculty. If no member of the department faculty is teaching a GRSC 7001 seminar then students can select from the available sections.

Econometric and microeconomic theory written comprehensive qualifying examinations

Summer semester

AAEC 8351 Second Year Paper II: Directed Readings	
1 hour	
Elective and/or research hours	2-6 hours

Students will register for the AAEC 8351 section headed by their second-year paper advisor.

Econometric and microeconomic theory re-examinations (if necessary)

Second year

Fall semester

AAEC 8010 Seminar	1 hour
AAEC 8352 Second Year Paper	1 hour
AAEC 9000 Research	hours
2 – 3 courses from Sections A and B above	

Spring Semester

AAEC 8010 Seminar	1 hour
AAEC 9000 Research	2-9 hours
ECON 8120 Econometrics II and/or AAEC 8610	3 hours
1 – 3 courses from Sections A and B above	

Summer Semester

Elective and/or research hours	3-6 hours
--------------------------------	-----------

Dissertation prospectus seminar and oral comprehensive qualifying examination.

Advanced to candidacy

Third Year

Fall Semester

AAEC 8010 Seminar	1 hour
AAEC 9000 Research	2-9 hours
Courses from Sections A and B above, as needed	

Remaining terms devoted to completing the dissertation.

Check List for Ph.D. Degree

Check the Graduate School website for all deadlines. Forms must be submitted by deadline dates. Meeting deadlines are entirely the student's responsibility and students will not be informed or reminded of these deadlines.

1. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Advisory Committee for Doctoral Candidates form](#) by the end of the second summer semester.
2. _____ Econometrics and microeconomics written comprehensive qualifying examinations passed within the first year.
3. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Final Doctoral Program of Study form](#) prior to taking the oral comprehensive qualifying/prospectus examination.
4. _____ Notify Graduate School, through the graduate program administrator, of time and place of oral comprehensive qualifying examination/prospectus at least two weeks prior to the examination.
5. _____ Dissertation prospectus seminar.
6. _____ Oral comprehensive qualifying examination.
7. _____ Approval of dissertation prospectus by advisory committee.
8. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Application for Admission to Candidacy for Doctoral Degrees form](#) the day prior to the oral qualifying/prospectus exam.. (It should be submitted to the Graduate School by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#) ONLY if planning to graduate in the same semester.)
9. _____ Submit to the Graduate School (through [Athena](#)) the completed *Application for Graduation* form by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#).
10. _____ Submit dissertation to advisory committee at least three weeks before proposed date of graduation.
11. _____ Electronically submit to the Graduate School the dissertation for a format check at least two weeks before the end of the graduation semester by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#).
12. _____ Notify Graduate School, through the graduate program administrator, of time and place of dissertation defense at least two weeks prior to the examination.
13. _____ Dissertation seminar.
14. _____ Final oral and dissertation defense.
15. _____ Submit to the Graduate School the completed [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\) Submission Approval form](#) by the [deadline posted on the Graduate School website](#).
16. _____ Complete exit survey and interview with department head.
17. _____ Return office key to graduate program administrator.