The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics offers three graduate degree programs leading to the master of science and doctor of philosophy. Long recognized as one of the top programs in the nation, the department is an active center of research and graduate training in environmental and natural resource economics, the economic development of low-income countries, agricultural economics, community economics, and more recently, resource and energy demand analysis.

Department faculty are affiliated with a broad range of institutes and centers across the campus, including the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, the University Center for Cooperatives, the Renk Agribusiness Institute, Center for Community Economic Development, and the area studies programs. Each program has its own rich intellectual life of seminars and other activities.

The department provides office space, a lounge, and IT support for its approximately 60 graduate students. The Taylor–Hibbard Club, the department’s graduate student organization, serves as a link between graduate students and the faculty, elects student representatives to department committees, and promotes academic and social activities for department members.

There are three master’s degree programs in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics: the M.S. named option Agricultural and Applied Economics (A A E), the M.S. named option Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA), and the M.S. named option Professional Option.

**M.S. NAMED OPTION IN AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS** ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#text](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#text))

The AAE-MS program is a 30-credit master’s degree program intended for students with research and academic interests, especially students who might want to go on for a Ph.D. program in economics of development, agriculture, energy and natural resources, and community development. This program normally takes four semesters to complete. For more information please visit the AAE department website ([https://aae.wisc.edu/programs/gradprogram](https://aae.wisc.edu/programs/gradprogram)).

**M.S. NAMED OPTION IN RESOURCE AND ENERGY DEMAND ANALYSIS (REDA)** ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#text](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#text))

This one-year program is designed to prepare students for jobs in economics and data analytics for a sustainable future. Industry professionals deliver seminars about their research, supply data for classroom activities, and mentor students via research projects. Our small class size means students get plenty of individual attention from faculty and staff. The cohort nature of our program fosters peer-to-peer learning and a culture of intellectual curiosity. Completion of this fast track master’s program requires 31 credits and does not include a thesis. Learn more ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms)).

**M.S. NAMED OPTION IN PROFESSIONAL OPTION** ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms))

This full time, 15-month, on-campus professional master’s program is designed to prepare students to fill the growing private sector demand for quantitatively-skilled analysts and managers. Students will learn skills in economic reasoning, data management, empirical analysis, and technical communication in order to find analytical positions in governmental, or non-governmental sectors. The curriculum features three semesters and one summer term of core course offerings in econometrics, microeconomic theory, and professional development, along with a capstone practicum class leading to a final professional report. Students take electives to pursue specific interests in AAE’s focus areas of agricultural, development, and environmental and natural resource economics. Learn more. ([https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/mspo](https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/mspo))

**ADMISSIONS**

Students apply to the M.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics through one of the named options:

- Agricultural and Applied Economics ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#text](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#text))
- Professional Option ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms))
- Resource and Energy Demand Analysis ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#text](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#text))

**FUNDING**

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information ([https://grad.wisc.edu/funding](https://grad.wisc.edu/funding)) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

M.S. students in agricultural and applied economics can apply for graduate positions listed under [students jobs](https://jobs.wisc.edu).
Students in the Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA) and Professional Option named options are not permitted to accept assistantships or seek dual degrees.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

### MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

- **Evening/Weekend**: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Online**: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Hybrid**: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.
- **Accelerated**: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

Note: The major is currently non-admitting. Students are admitted through one of the named options (sub-majors) below (p. 2).

**Requirements Detail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENTLY NON-ADMITTING MAJOR**

### NAMED OPTIONS (SUB-MAJORS)

A named option is a formally documented sub-major within an academic major program. Named options appear on the transcript with degree conferral. Students pursuing the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics must select one of the following named options:
GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Graduate Program Handbook is the repository for all of the program’s policies and requirements. See the handbook for the named option in Agricultural and Applied Economics here (https://aae.wisc.edu/students/grad-handbook), and for the named option in Resource and Energy Demand Analysis here (http://reda.aae.wisc.edu/handbook.pdf). The handbook for the MS AAE Professional Option will be available in May 2019.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 6 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

Up to 7 credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree numbered 300 or above are allowed to count toward the degree, with petition from student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special

See either the M.S. named option in Agricultural and Applied Economics (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#policiestext), the named option in Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA) (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#policiestext), or the named option in Professional Option (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms/#policiestext) for the policy information.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

See either the M.S. named option in Agricultural and Applied Economics (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-agricultural-applied-economics-ms/#policiestext), the named option in Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA) (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-ms/agricultural-applied-economics-resource-energy-demand-analysis-ms/#policiestext), or the named option in Professional Option (https://next-guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-professional-option-ms/#policiestext) for the policy information.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER

Students in the Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA) or the Professional Option named options are not permitted to accept assistantships or seek dual or double degrees.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulates and critiques theories and empirical methods for quantitative analysis relevant to agricultural, environmental, international development, or community economics.
2. Identifies data sources, applies appropriate econometric methodologies, and evaluates quantitative evidence relevant to questions in agricultural, environmental, international development, or community economics.
3. Clearly communicates applied economics issues, methods, and empirical analysis using both written and oral strategies.
4. Recognizes and applies principles of ethical, collegial and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Foltz (chair), Barham, Chavas, Coxhead, Deller, Gould, Mitchell, Phaneuf, Provencher, Rutherford, Stiegert; Associate Professors Alix-Garcia, Du, Grainger, Hueth, Schechter, Shi; Assistant Professors Conroy, Dower, Parker, Tjemström; Faculty Associate Dong

Lecturers: Beardmore, Glinsmann