The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics offers 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 and community economics.

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 MS graduate students and PhD 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 its members.

There are two master’s degree programs in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics: the MS Professional Option and the MS Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAE).


The **AAE-MS** option is a master’s degree program intended for students with research and specific academic interests, especially students who might want to pursue a double or dual degree with another department, or go on for a PhD 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/).


This full-time, 15-month, on-campus professional master’s option 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. Students take electives to pursue specific interests in AAE’s focus areas of agriculture, development, and environmental and natural resource economics. Learn more. (https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/mspo/)