

# AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS: PROFESSIONAL OPTION, MS

This is a named option in the Agricultural and Applied Economics MS. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/agricultural-applied-economics/agricultural-applied-economics-ms/>)

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Professional Option (MSPO) program is a full-time, 15-month, accelerated professional master’s program designed to meet the growing private sector demand for quantitatively-skilled analysts and managers. Please visit the AAE MS AAE Professional Option (<https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/mspo/>) website for more information.

The department also offers an AAE MS Option (<https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/masters/>).

## ADMISSIONS

### ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	April 15 for international applicants; June 1 for domestic applicants*
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	May 1**
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Required.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/</a> ).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a

Letters of Recommendation Required 2

\* Priority deadline: March 15  
 \*\*Domestic applicant deadline to accept admission: June 30

### PREPARATORY COURSEWORK

Strong applicants to the Agricultural and Applied Economics – MS Professional Option will have successfully completed undergraduate courses in intermediate microeconomics, multivariate calculus, and introductory statistics.

For details on the Agricultural and Applied Economics MS application process, please visit the department application site (<https://aae.wisc.edu/apply/>).

For more information on the MS degree, contact the Graduate Academic Program Manager listed in the contact information box.

## FUNDING

### FUNDING

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

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

#### PROGRAM RESOURCES

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

AAE has limited scholarships for Professional Option students. Applications will be reviewed for admission and funding with the initial application.

## REQUIREMENTS

### MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

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

### NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

## Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

### Requirement Detail

Minimum 30 credits  
Credit Requirement

Minimum 16 credits  
Residence Credit Requirement

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/>).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/>).

Other Grade Requirements Students must earn a B or above in all core curriculum coursework (A A E 635, 636, and 637).

Assessments and Examinations n/a

Language Requirements No language requirements.

## REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Optional summer entry course (by permission of dept)</b>		
A A E 670	Mathematics for Agricultural and Applied Economics	3
<b>Year 1 - Fall Semester</b>		
A A E 635	Applied Microeconomic Theory	3
A A E 636	Applied Econometric Analysis I	3
A A E 720	Seminar in Quantitative and Applied Economics	1
A A E Professional Option Elective (see list below)		up to 4 credits
<b>Year 1 - Spring Semester</b>		

A A E 637	Applied Econometric Analysis II	4
A A E 721	Professional Communication of Applied Economic Analysis	1

Complete one of the following:

A A E 625	Agribusiness Economics and Management	
or A A E 706	Applied Risk Analysis	
or A A E 719	Applied Business Economics	

### Year 1 - Summer Semester

A A E 718	Data Science for Agricultural and Applied Economics	3
-----------	---	---

### Year 2 - Fall Semester

A A E 723	Professional Development Seminar	1
A A E 724	Practicum for Applied Economists	4
A A E Professional Option Elective (see list below)		up to 4 credits

**Total Credits 30**

## A A E Professional Option Electives

Code	Title	Credits
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	3
A A E 320	Agricultural Systems Management	3
A A E 322	Commodity Markets	4
A A E 323	Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership	3
A A E 335	Introduction to Data Analysis using Spreadsheets	2
A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST 343	Environmental Economics	3-4
A A E/AGRONOMY/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	3
A A E 352	Global Health: Economics, Natural Systems, and Policy	4
A A E/ECON 371	Energy, Resources and Economics	3
A A E/INTL ST 373	Globalization, Poverty and Development	3
A A E/INTL ST 374	The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	3
A A E 375	Special Topics	1-4
A A E 419	Agricultural Finance	3
A A E/ECON 421	Economic Decision Analysis	4
A A E 422	Food Systems and Supply Chains	3
A A E/ECON/ INTL BUS 462	Latin American Economic Development	3
A A E/ECON 473	Economic Growth and Development in Southeast Asia	3
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa	3
A A E/REAL EST/ URB R PL 520	Community Economic Analysis	3
A A E/ECON 526	Quantitative Methods in Agricultural and Applied Economics	4

A A E/ECON/ F&W ECOL 531	Natural Resource Economics	3
A A E/M H R 540	Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Technology	3
A A E/ECON/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 671	Energy Economics	3
A A E 706	Applied Risk Analysis	3
A A E 719	Applied Business Economics	3
A A E 737	Applied Econometric Analysis III	3
A A E/CIV ENGR/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 561	Energy Markets	3
A A E 625	Agribusiness Economics and Management	3
A A E 641	Foundations of Agricultural Economics	3
A A E 642	Foundations of Development Economics	3
A A E 643	Foundations of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
A A E 722	Machine Learning in Applied Economic Analysis	4

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

## POLICIES

### 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.

### NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

##### Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 7 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

##### Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

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 ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

### Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

### Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

### PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy.

### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

The A A E Graduate Faculty Committee makes decisions regarding student progress.

### CREDITS ALLOWED PER TERM

15 credits

### TIME LIMITS

A full-time student is expected to complete the MS in Agricultural and Applied Economics in 15 months (4 semesters). However, the program can be completed in as little as 12 months (3 semesters). The program can be completed part-time but must be completed in five years.

### GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)

- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

## College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Grievance Policy

In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), any student who feels unfairly treated by a member of the CALs faculty or staff has the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing. Some complaints may arise from misunderstandings or communication breakdowns and be easily resolved; others may require formal action. Complaints may concern any matter of perceived unfairness.

To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect the rights of both the person complaining and the person at whom the complaint is directed, the following procedures are used in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies.

1. The student should first talk with the person at whom the complaint is directed. Most issues can be settled at this level. Others may be resolved by established departmental procedures.
2. If the student is unsatisfied, and the complaint involves any unit outside CALs, the student should seek the advice of the dean or director of that unit to determine how to proceed.
  - a. If the complaint involves an academic department in CALs the student should proceed in accordance with item 3 below.
  - b. If the grievance involves a unit in CALs that is not an academic department, the student should proceed in accordance with item 4 below.
3. The student should contact the department's grievance advisor within 120 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The departmental administrator can provide this person's name. The grievance advisor will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint, in discussions with the student and the person at whom the complaint is directed.
  - a. If informal mediation fails, the student can submit the grievance in writing to the grievance advisor within 10 working days of the date the student is informed of the failure of the mediation attempt by the grievance advisor. The grievance advisor will provide a copy to the person at whom the grievance is directed.
  - b. The grievance advisor will refer the complaint to a department committee that will obtain a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, providing a copy to the student. Either party may request a hearing before the committee. The grievance advisor will provide both parties a written decision within 20 working days from the date of receipt of the written complaint.
  - c. If the grievance involves the department chairperson, the grievance advisor or a member of the grievance committee, these persons may not participate in the review.
  - d. If not satisfied with departmental action, either party has 10 working days from the date of notification of the departmental committee action to file a written appeal to the CALs Equity and Diversity Committee. A subcommittee of this committee will make a preliminary judgement as to whether the case merits further investigation and review. If the subcommittee unanimously determines that the case does not merit further investigation and review, its decision is final. If one or more members of the subcommittee determine that the case does merit further investigation and review, the subcommittee will investigate and

seek to resolve the dispute through mediation. If this mediation attempt fails, the subcommittee will bring the case to the full committee. The committee may seek additional information from the parties or hold a hearing. The committee will present a written recommendation to the dean who will provide a final decision within 20 working days of receipt of the committee recommendation.

4. If the alleged unfair treatment occurs in a CALs unit that is not an academic department, the student should, within 120 calendar days of the alleged incident, take his/her grievance directly to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The dean will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint. If this mediation attempt does not succeed the student may file a written complaint with the dean who will refer it to the CALs Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee will seek a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, subsequently following other steps delineated in item 3d above.

## OTHER

n/a

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### 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.

### PROGRAM RESOURCES

The MS AAE Professional Option courses are designed to prepare students to enter the professional workforce in both the U.S. and abroad in data-intensive and quantitatively focused jobs in economic consulting, businesses, agribusinesses, non-profit organizations focused on development, and governmental sectors.

## PEOPLE

### PEOPLE PROFESSORS

Deller, Steven  
Foltz, Jeremy  
Mitchell, Paul  
Phaneuf, Daniel  
Rutherford, Thomas  
Schechter, Laura  
Shi, Guanming (Chair)

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Conroy, Tessa  
Dower, Paul  
Du, Sheldon  
Grainger, Corbett  
Nicholson, Charles  
Parker, Dominic

### ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Frye, Dustin

Hadachek, Jeff  
Jerch, Rhiannon  
Johnston, Sarah  
Mukherjee, Priya  
Stevens, Andrew  
van Rijn, Jordan  
Wiseman, Eleanor

## **FACULTY ASSOCIATES**

Beach, Jeremy  
Berner, Courtney  
Yi, Jing

## **AFFILIATE FACULTY**

Fletcher, Jason  
Kagy, Gisella  
Raynor, Jennifer  
Timmins, Christopher

## **LECTURERS**

Roth, Kevin  
Schmidt, Silke

## **GRADUATE ADVISOR**

Mary Treleven