

k-state

study guide

kansas state university

Agricultural Economics

Careers

Agricultural economics students graduate from K-State with the skills and experiences employers desire. Along with above average starting salaries, our graduates begin their new careers on solid footing. Graduates excel at careers in finance and accounting, marketing, production management, law, government service, human resources, natural resources, and veterinary medicine.

The program

The career destination you desire is unique, so we've designed our major to be flexible while giving you the best grasp on emerging issues facing professionals in food, business, and agriculture. Students choose one of our program options that best meets their goals.

Specialty

This option allows you to uniquely create a degree suited to your interests. Students have combined agricultural economics with political science, nutrition, journalism, accounting, grain science, animal science, agronomy, and Spanish to name a few.

Natural resources

For students who want to focus on the economic issues and business implications surrounding our natural resources, this option is a good match. The conservation of the environment is an increasingly important area that businesses want to understand and utilize. Courses in this 15-hour secondary major include resource management and conservation.

Pre-veterinary

Veterinary schools are increasingly selective of the students they admit. This option gives students a strong foundation in both the science requirements of vet school, as well as the business skills needed to be a doctor, manager, and consultant in a veterinary practice.

Pre-law

Law school admission committees look for breadth and depth in the curriculum of potential law students, and they value the diversity found in the agricultural economics major. Students in this option work with an advisor in agricultural economics and pre-law to make sure they gain the experiences necessary to enter and succeed in law school.

Farm management

This is a great opportunity for students who desire to apply management principles to a farm, ranch, or commercial feedlot. Courses in the option focus on livestock and crop production, agricultural technology, and agricultural economics.

Quantitative

Students with an interest in math and statistics, as well as agricultural economics, excel in this option. With these advanced skills you will be well prepared for MS and PhD studies or for work as an economic analyst or consultant.

Advising

The faculty is committed to providing high-quality advising, and all teaching faculty are undergraduate advisors. Providing personal attention is a high priority for our faculty advisors. Advisors not only guide student academics and assist you with career planning, but they're an excellent source of information for finding help with student employment and other personal concerns. The department's academic program coordinator, located in 343 Waters, can provide immediate assistance as well.

Internships

Internships provide students with practical professional experience while earning university credit. Internships not only allow students to discover their field of interest, but they also help students gain professional experience. On average, our students earn \$15 per hour during their internships, and many find they are offered jobs associated with their internships.

International study abroad

There's no doubt agribusiness and agricultural economics are global. A study abroad opportunity is an important component of our student's education. The chance to experience different cultures, languages, and industry is a life-changing experience.

Study abroad can last two weeks or up to a year. Our faculty regularly takes groups of students overseas. Their trips have included journeys to South America, Australia and New Zealand, Central America, Ireland, and Europe.

Student activities

Community involvement is an important aspect to our department. The Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club develops professional and networking skills through national competitions, trips, and bi-weekly meetings. The National Agri-Marketing Association club works with professionals around the Midwest to develop their marketing skills. In national competition, K-State is the only school to win back-to-back first-place titles.

Financial assistance

The agricultural economics department provides more than \$175,000 in scholarships each year. In addition, assistantships are available to undergraduates.

Advanced degrees

A bachelor of science is good preparation for graduate school or a professional program such as law or veterinary medicine. The department offers both master's and PhD programs. The master's in agribusiness program is an industry-centered distance education degree for working professionals. It is available to those with a bachelor of science degree and at least two years of work experience.

Transfer students

If you expect to transfer to our program, we recommend you obtain from the department Agribusiness/Ag Econ Informal 2+2 Program: A Guide for Community College Transfers.

Suggested schedule for first two years

Hrs. First semester

- 3 ENGL 100 Expository Writing I
- 3 MATH 100 College Algebra (Quantitative option substitutes MATH 220)
- 1 AGECE 105 Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Orientation
- 3-4 Ag or food science and technology elective*
- 3 SOCIO 211 Introduction to Sociology

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Hrs. Second semester

- 3 AGECE 120 Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
- 3 MATH 205 Calculus and Linear Algebra (Quantitative option substitutes MATH 221)
- 2 COMM 105 Public Speaking IA
- 3 PSYCH 110 General Psychology
- 4-5 Natural science elective##

15-16

Hrs. Third semester

- 3 ECON 110 Economics I
- 3 ENGL 200 Expository Writing II
- 4 Natural science elective##
- 3 Humanities elective**
- 3 Social science elective#

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Hrs. Fourth semester

- 3 AGECE 500 Production Economics
- 3 ACCTG 231 Accounting for Business Operations
- 3-4 Ag or food science and technology elective*
- 3 Communications elective (ENGL 201 or above, COMM 201 or above, or a modern language course)
- 3 STAT 325 Elements of Statistics for Social Sciences

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*Select from the agricultural and food science and technology electives (Farm management option requires Principles of Animal Science, lab, and Crop Science).

**Select from history, music, art, English, philosophy, theatre, dance, or modern language.

#Select from political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, history, geography, women's studies, and American ethnic studies.

##Select from General Chemistry, Principles of Biology, and General Physics.

Option requirements

Farm management option

- 3 AGECE 308 Farm and Ranch Management
- 2 AGECE 490 Computer Applications
- 3 AGECE 505 Agricultural Market Structures
- 3 AGECE 513 Agricultural Finance
- 3 AGECE 598 Farm Management Strategies
- 3 ACCTG 241 Accounting for Financing and Investing
- 4 AGRON 305 Soils
- 3 ECON 510 Intermediate Macroeconomics
- 3 AGCOM 400 Ag. Business Communication or ENGL 516 Written Communication for the Sciences

- 3-4 Agricultural technology management electives
- 15 Agricultural economics electives (including at least one course numbered 600 or above)
- 9-12 Free electives

Specialty option

- 2 AGECE 490 Computer Applications
- 3 AGECE 505 Agricultural Market Structures
- 3 ACCTG 241 Accounting for Financing and Investing
- 3 ECON 510 Intermediate Macroeconomics
- 3 AGCOM 400 Ag. Business Communication or ENGL 516 Written Communication for the Sciences
- 21 Agricultural economics electives (including at least two courses numbered 598 or above)
- 14-17 Free electives
- 15 Specialization in a second department or field, at least 6 credit hours at 500 level or higher

Quantitative option

- 3 AGECE 490 Computer Applications
- 3 AGECE 505 Agricultural Market Structures
- 3 ACCTG 241 Accounting for Financing and Investing
- 3 CIS 200 Fundamental Computer Programming
- 1 C-Language lab
- 3 AGCOM 400 Ag. Business Communication or ENGL 516 Written Communication for the Sciences
- 4 MATH 222 Analytical Geometry and Calculus III
- 3 MATH 551 Applied Matrix Theory
- 3 ECON 510 Intermediate Macroeconomics
- 15 Agricultural economics electives
- 9 Quantitative electives
- 13 Free electives

Undergraduate courses

- 1 AGECE 105 Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Orientation
- 3 AGECE 120 Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
- 3 AGECE 308 Farm and Ranch Management
- 3 AGECE 318 Food and Agribusiness Management
- 3 AGECE 410 Agricultural Policy
- 3 AGECE 415 The Global Agricultural Economy, Hunger, and Poverty
- 3 AGECE 420 Commodity Futures
- AGECE 445 Agribusiness Internship
- 1 AGECE 460 International Food/Agribusiness Tour
- 2 AGECE 490 Computer Applications
- 3 AGECE 500 Production Economics
- 3 AGECE 505 Agricultural Market Structures
- 3 AGECE 515 Food and Agribusiness Marketing
- 3 AGECE 516 Agricultural Law and Economics
- 3 AGECE 520 Marketing Fundamentals and Futures/Options Trading
- 3 AGECE 525 Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
- 3 AGECE 570 Food Manufacturing, Distribution, and Retail
- 3 AGECE 598 Farm Management Strategies
- 3 AGECE 599 Food and Agribusiness Management Strategies

- 3 AGECE 605 Price Analysis and Forecasting
- 3 AGECE 610 Current Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy Issues
- 3 AGECE 623 International Agricultural Trade
- 3 AGECE 632 Agribusiness Logistics
- 3 AGECE 680 Risk Management
- 3 AGECE 712 Opt Technology for Ag Economics
- 2 AGECE 590 AGECE/AGBUS Honors Problem (open to honors students only)
- 3 ECON 631 Principles of Transportation

For more information about agricultural economics, contact:

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