

Dear Student:

I would like to inform you of the graduate program of the department of Food and Resource Economics at the University of Delaware. The department offers four degrees: Master of Science (M.S.) in agricultural and resource economics, Master of Science (M.S.) in operations research/agricultural economics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in operations research/agricultural economics, and Doctor of Philosophy in economics with concentration in agricultural economics. A variety of financial assistance programs are available, each based on merit. Most of our graduate students receive some form of financial assistance from tuition waivers to teaching and research assistantships. Graduate assistantships provide a \$1,000 stipend per month plus a tuition waiver. Students on assistantship support generally take 3 courses per semester and work on a research/teaching project for 20 hours per week.

Our program emphasizes applied research using economic theory as the basis for quantitative empirical work. Most of our graduates find work with both the public and private sectors. Recent graduates from our program have found employment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other land grant universities, and private industry (Bank of New York, MBNA, WEFA, among others).

Some of our graduates have also pursued their Ph.D. degrees at other universities such as Purdue, Penn State, Texas A & M, Northwestern, Clemson, and Cornell. In a recent department alumni survey, more than 70% of our graduates found jobs within three months and nearly all (96%) were employed within six months of graduation. The relatively small size of the State of Delaware enables the department to have very close ties with the State Department of Agriculture and other state agencies. The location and our close relationship to the public and private sectors are especially conducive to collaborative research to solve critical issues facing the food industry and environmental and natural resource problems.

Please browse through the enclosed brochure which details our programs and visit our website at www.frec.udel.edu. If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact me directly at the above address or by telephone at (302) 831-2511. If you prefer, I can also be reached by email (ilvento@udel.edu). I will be happy to discuss our graduate programs with you.

Thomas W. Ilvento
Associate Professor and Acting Chair