

# **DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS**

## **M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours including either a thesis or a non-thesis option. Under the thesis option, students complete 24 hours of course work and 6 hours of thesis work. Under the non-thesis option, students complete 27 hours of course work and 3 hours of directed project. All students will need to take ECON 801 and either ECON 552 or ECON 802. All students need to take four of the following quantitative courses: FREC 608, FREC 615, FREC 674, FREC 682, FREC 801, FREC 806, ECON 822 and ECON 823. Students writing a thesis need to take two 800-level FREC courses, while students under the non-thesis option need to take three 800-level FREC courses from the following: FREC 810, FREC 826, FREC 827 and FREC 834. In addition, no more than three credits of independent study may be taken unless approved by the department chair, advisor and the department graduate committee. Agricultural and Resource Economics courses taken previously may partially meet the requirements if they do not count towards the fulfillment of another degree.

The student plans a course program in consultation with the major professor in order to attain competency in economics, quantitative methods, and agricultural and resource economics.

Students must achieve an overall index of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all graduate course work taken. The student's progress toward the degree will be monitored by the academic advisor and the department graduate committee.

A student choosing the thesis option is required to prepare a thesis that reflects a substantive analysis of a subject in the field of agricultural and resource economics. An oral examination covering both course work and thesis will be given to determine whether the student has a breadth of understanding of the field. A student selecting the non-thesis option is required to complete a directed research project to be presented at a department seminar.

Depending on the undergraduate course background of the entering M.S. student, it may be necessary for the student to remove any deficiencies (e.g. beginning micro- and/or macro-economics) before enrolling in graduate courses. These deficiencies should be removed promptly upon entering the M.S. program.

Attendance is required at departmental seminars. It is the purpose of the seminars to broaden the student's knowledge base.