

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND RESOURCE ECONOMIC

M.S. Degree in Operations Research/Agricultural Economics

This degree is research-oriented and is a dual title degree available to students with a strong interest in Operations Research techniques as applied to Agricultural Economics. Thus, a strong component of the student's program includes training in scientific methods as well as techniques of analysis applicable to the field. The M.S. student is required to take at least twelve credit hours in the Agricultural Economics/Economics areas and six thesis credit hours from the Food and Resource Economics Department. At least twelve credit hours are also required from applicable Operations Research courses.

The M.S. candidate in Operations Research/Agricultural Economics is required to have the following course work before graduation.

- (1) ECON 801 Microeconomic Theory
ORES 601 Survey in Operations Research I
ORES 602 Survey in Operations Research II
ORES 690 Operations Research Seminar (2 semesters)
MATH 630 Probability Theory and Applications
MATH 694 Optimization Methods

- (2) At least two courses selected from the following list of Agricultural Economics courses:
FREC 608 Research Methods
FREC 615 Advanced Prices and Statistics
FREC 801 Advanced Food Marketing
FREC 806 Research Techniques and Procedures
FREC 810 International Agricultural Trade Special Topics
FREC 826 Issues in Domestic and Foreign Rural Development
FREC 827 Advanced Production Economics
FREC 834 Seminar in Resource Economics

- (3) At least two of the following courses:
ORES 603, ORES 801, ORES 802, ORES 803 (1 credit hour only)
MATH 631, ECON 675 or ECON 676, ECON 802, ECON 822, ECON 823,
ECON 841, ECON 842, ECON 861, ECON 877, MATH 801, MATH 804,
STAT 602, STAT 617, STAT 618, STAT 620, STAT 635, STAT 831,
BAUD 820, BAUD 831, BAUD 880, BAUD 881, CISC 626, CISC 627.

Other courses not listed above can be taken by the student upon approval of his/her advisor and the Operations Research Director.

Other Requirements:

1. Students must obtain a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 1150 on the Graduate Record Examination. For students who do not have English as a first language, a score of at least 600 must be obtained on the TOEFL exam.
2. Incoming graduate students on assistantship are assigned to a faculty advisor for assistance in initial course scheduling and research duties. Graduate students not on assistantship are assigned to a temporary advisor for assistance in course selection. It is the responsibility of graduate students not on assistantship to find a faculty member to act as a thesis advisor.
3. The student's thesis committee should consist of at least two Agricultural Economics faculty and one Operations Research faculty from outside the Department, OR Director and Department Chair. This committee is established by the student, and his or her thesis advisor. The committee must be formed no later than the end of the student's second semester.
4. The student should develop with the major advisor a thesis proposal by the end of the first year in residence and present the thesis proposal at a combined Departmental/Operations Research seminar.
5. A 3.0 GPA is required to receive the degree.
6. A minimum of 33 graduate credits is required. Of these 33 credits, a minimum of 27 course credits and 6 research (thesis) credits are required. Courses taken to remove deficiencies in preparation may extend the required minimum number of credits.
7. A final oral examination will be held in conjunction with the student's thesis defense which will be open to the entire OR committee.