

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS, PHD

The AAE PhD program provides a rigorous background in economic theory and analysis, combined with applied economics courses in the areas of International Development, Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Community Development Economics. Students will enjoy small class sizes, a supportive atmosphere, and strong support from their major advisor and the AAE community. The program takes 5 years to complete. The PhD curriculum relies on the doctoral core in microeconomic theory and econometrics offered by Wisconsin's outstanding and highly ranked Department of Economics (<https://www.econ.wisc.edu/>). When matched with the department's applied courses, students learn how to use advanced methods to conceptualize and answer contemporary economic problems. This strong core training prepares students for a variety of challenging careers (<https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/placement/>).

Active student research seminars and department seminars complement formal classroom instruction.

ADMISSIONS

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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	January 15
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

All applicants must satisfy requirements that are set forth by the Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>). Applicants are required to provide the following materials:

1. Unofficial transcripts. Unofficial transcripts from all previous postsecondary studies are required for all PhD applicants. Unofficial transcripts should be uploaded to the application system. If an applicant is recommended for admission by the department, the Graduate School will request official transcripts be sent to the Graduate School from the undergraduate institution.
2. Three reference letters. Ask for detailed letters from people who are able to judge the applicant's qualifications for graduate work in this field. Most useful are letters from faculty who have taught an applicant in one or more classes. In the application, applicants will supply their email addresses and the Graduate School will send instructions on how to upload letters.
3. Statement of Purpose: Summarize educational goals, past experiences relevant to future study, and career plans. Include details about specific research interests. Information about educational background, publications and/or other relevant details should be included.
4. Supplemental Application: Provide a table of relevant economics and mathematics coursework, textbooks and grades. List the area of applied economics that an applicant would like to study (more than one can be listed). Finally, in a couple paragraphs, answer the supplemental question.
5. Resume or curriculum vitae (cv).
6. GRE scores. GRE are required and cannot be waived.
7. International Applicants: International degree-seeking applicants must prove English proficiency using the Graduate School's requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>).
8. Application Fee: Submission must be accompanied by the one-time application fee. See the Graduate School FAQ (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>) for fee information. Fee grants are only available through the conditions outlined here by the Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/fee-grant/>).

For more details on the Agricultural and Applied Economics PhD application process, visit: To Apply (<https://aae.wisc.edu/apply/>).

For more information on the Agricultural and Applied Economics, PhD degree, contact the graduate program manager (see contact information box).

Currently Enrolled UW-Madison Graduate Student Admissions

Applicants who are currently enrolled in a UW-Madison master's degree program apply by a different process. Please contact the department Graduate Program Manager (mtreleven@wisc.edu) to inquire about the internal process.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

[The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial](#)

[aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.](#)

Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Agricultural and Applied Economics department offers five years of funding to accepted PhD students in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships and a limited number of fellowships. The department also provides funding to students who have been accepted to present at a conference and research awards for outstanding student research on an application basis. For more details, please visit the AAE PhD Program website (<https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/phd/>).

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

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

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

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

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 Credit Requirement 51 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 32 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 26 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 Grades of B or above in core curriculum coursework.

Assessments and Examinations Preliminary examinations are required in microeconomic theory and a major field. The microeconomic theory prelim is administered and graded by the faculty in Economics. Students receiving grades of B or better in the microeconomic theory core can choose not to sit for the prelim. The major field prelim is administered and graded by the Agricultural and Applied Economics faculty. The PhD also requires a dissertation. Students must make oral defense of dissertation.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/>).

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Economic Theory		
ECON 711	Economic Theory–Microeconomics Sequence	3
ECON 713	Economic Theory: Microeconomics Sequence	3
ECON 712 or ECON 714	Economic Theory–Macroeconomics Sequence Economic Theory; Macroeconomics Sequence	3
Statistics and Econometrics		
ECON 709 & ECON 710	Economic Statistics and Econometrics I and Economic Statistics and Econometrics II	6

Major Field

Complete one of the following fields: 9

Community Economics

Choose 9 credits of A A E courses in consultation with advisor. Courses outside of A A E may be taken with advisor permission.

Development Economics

A A E 642	Foundations of Development Economics
A A E 730	Frontiers in Development Economics 1
A A E 731	Frontiers in Development Economics 2

Economics of Agriculture

A A E 641	Foundations of Agricultural Economics	
A A E 746	Frontiers in Agricultural Economics 1	
A A E/ECON 747	Frontiers in Agricultural Economics 2	
<i>Environmental and Resource Economics</i>		
A A E 643	Foundations of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	
A A E 760	Frontiers in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 1	
A A E 762	Frontiers in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics 2	
Breadth		9
Students take 9 credits in either an external or distributed doctoral minor or a graduate/professional certificate.		
Research		
Students complete research credits to reach the minimum credit requirement.		18
A A E 990	Research and Thesis	
Total Credits		51

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 19 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No credits from another institution or UW-Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to transfer.

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

Every graduate student is assigned to a faculty member advisor. To ensure that students are making satisfactory progress toward a degree, students are expected to meet with their advisor at least once a semester.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

Students must pass the microeconomic theory requirement before the beginning of year 3. Students must finish all required coursework and pass the major field exam before the beginning of year 4. Students must defend a dissertation proposal before the end of the first semester of year 4.

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

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://employee disabilities.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

Funding packages are offered to selected PhD applicants.

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 Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics invites applied economists to participate in a seminar series. Students get various presentation opportunities to present their latest research in department and student seminars. All students are required to take a research colloquium which helps students develop their dissertation proposal and plan for their job search. Faculty provide mock interviews and detailed feedback on interviewing skills. A A E placement (<https://aae.wisc.edu/grad/placement/>) information is on the department website.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Articulates and critiques theories and empirical methods to address research issues in agricultural, environmental, international development, or community economics.
2. Identifies data sources, applies appropriate econometric methodologies, and evaluates quantitative evidence relevant to questions in agricultural, environmental, international development, or community economics.
3. Creates scholarship that makes a substantive contribution to the chosen major field and/or to society.
4. Clearly communicates applied economics issues, methods, and empirical analysis using both written and oral strategies.
5. Recognizes and applies principles of ethical, collegial and professional conduct.