

**Tuskegee University**  
**College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences**  
**Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**  
**Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural and Resource Economics**

**Contact Information:**

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**Degree(s) Offered:** Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural and Resource Economics,  
Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

\* For additional information please refer to the Graduate Handbook.

The Agricultural and Resource Economics graduate program offers several specialty areas, such as **rural economic and community development, agribusiness management and marketing, and natural resources economics**. This program is flexible in terms of research and course work so that students can achieve their career-inspired and individual objectives. Students complete a total of ~30 credit hours that include a research (thesis option) or professional project (non-thesis option). Find out more about the agricultural and resource economics research program in this area

[http://www.tuskegee.edu/academics/colleges/caens/daes/graduate\\_programs/ms\\_in\\_agrecon.aspx](http://www.tuskegee.edu/academics/colleges/caens/daes/graduate_programs/ms_in_agrecon.aspx). The program seeks to facilitate the development of competencies in applied economics and analysis of challenges and opportunities in agriculture and food, community and other resource systems. Graduates of the program are successfully pursuing careers with government, academia, and industry! Numerous graduates have also gone on to further their education in graduate and

x Prerequisite academic work should provide evidence that the application shall be able to pursue the graduate course effectively.

A cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0 or better is required for regular admission; however, student with a cumulative GPA of 2.7-

Completed Application along with the required amount of application fees  
Three Letters of Recommendation  
Statement of Purpose  
GRE Scores  
Financial Affidavit (International Students –only)  
Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) Scores (International students only).

## **Graduation Requirements:**

### **A. The Master of Science, Non-Thesis Option**

The **non-thesis** M.S. is a professional degree in which a student must complete a minimum of 32 credit hours of graduate course work to receive the degree, and other requirements may be specified by the department. Thus, programs leading to this degree provide opportunities for students to increase their knowledge and competencies in the various agricultural disciplines. A student, according to his/her needs may **(a)** obtain a balanced and unified training encompassing a wide spectrum of subject matter area or **(b)** obtain intensive training in a specified area. The emphasis of the program is to enable students to develop skills as professional practitioners in the communication of technical knowledge and its application to the solution of current and future technical, economic, and social problems of individuals and groups. The expected duration of the Non-Thesis Option program is 12-18 months.

Core Courses: 14 Credits

Area of Concentration (AGEC) Courses: 12 Credits

Elective Courses: 6 Credits (Any graduate level courses 500 or above outside AGEC)

Admission to Candidacy

Passing of the Final Oral Examination

### **Course and Credit Requirements for the Master of Science, Non-Thesis Option**

To earn a professional degree, a minimum of **32 graduate credits** are required comprising **14 credit hours** of core courses, **12 credit hours** for the area of concentration (Agricultural and Resource Economics; AGEC) of which **6 credit hours** must be at the **600 level or higher**, **6 credit hours at the 500 level (one of which must include AGEC 0505)**, and **6 credit hours of electives in a discipline other than the student's concentration**. The **final project/paper** will account for **3 credit hours** of the core requirements. Following the completion of 15 credits, students are required to be admitted to Candidacy. In addition to the course work outlined above, students must present 1) an **acceptable document** comprising a minimum of 20 pages on a selected professional problem or a report of training and 1) pass a **Final Oral Examination** based on the document as determined by the Advisory Committee.

#### **Core Courses (14 credits):**

AGEC 0615	Quantitative Methods (or equivalent)	3 credits
ECON 0512	Introduction to International Trade	3 credits
AGSC 0600	Non-Thesis/Thesis Graduate Project Seminar I	1 credit

AGSC 0604 Non-Thesis/Thesis Graduate Project Seminar II  
IBSC 0601 Research Ethics in Bioscience

1 credit  
3 credits\*

AGSC 0600 Non-Thesis/Thesis Graduate Project Seminar I

1 credit

AGSC 0604	Non-Thesis/Thesis Graduate Project Seminar II	1 credit
AGEC 0700	Research in Agricultural and Resource Economics	6 credits

### **Advisory Committee**

A Major Advisor will be assigned to the student by the department head if the student has not already identified one. The Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Dean of Graduate Programs encourage the formation of an Advisory Committee during the first semester of your graduate studies. In consultation with the Major Advisor, the Advisory Committee should be selected and is comprised of three members (including the Major Advisor). At least two must be in the area of the student's research interest. Together with the Major Advisor, the student will identify a research problem (subject matter to study) and prepare a research proposal for subsequent approval by the committee. It is the student's responsibility to contact each prospective committee member to see if he/she will serve on the Advisory Committee. It is recommended that the student obtain the written approval of each committee member. After the approvals are received, the Department head, College and Graduate School deans are to be notified of the committee members. The Major Advisor serves as chairperson of this committee and will convene meetings at his/her discretion.

### **Other:**

#### **Professional Development Document/Thesis**

The final draft of the non-thesis document or the thesis must be filed with the student's Advisory/Examining Committee at least 30 days before the date listed in the university calendar for final copies to be submitted during the semester in which the student expects to graduate. The student must present to the Dean of Graduate Programs a "Preliminary Approval Sheet" (PAS) bearing the signature of the Major Professor before the final oral examination may be scheduled and before copies of the thesis are distributed to members of the Advisory/Examining Committee. After the "Preliminary Approval Sheet" has been signed, it should be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Programs before the final examination is scheduled and before the final draft of the thesis/dissertation is prepared for final approval. Approval of the Professional Development Document/Thesis in its final form rests with the Advisory/Examining Committee.

**Seminars**

A student pursuing the Master of Science degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics must present at least two seminars. The first seminar (AGSC 0600) shall be the presentation of the student's research proposal of the Master's thesis. The second (AGSC 0604) shall be his/her



AGEC 0754. CANDIDATE FOR DEGREE ONLY. 1st and 2nd Semesters, Summer. 0 credits. Restricted to graduate students who have completed all requirements for graduate degree including final oral or comprehensive examination, submission of thesis and approval of the thesis by the Office of the Graduate Programs. Students will be permitted to register in the category one at a time.

AGSC 0600. NON-THESIS GRADUATE PROJECT PROPOSAL SEMINAR I. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semesters. Lect. 1, 1 credit. Lectures from visiting scientists, and other organizations on topics related to environmental science. Presentation of proposals for thesis/non-thesis projects and technical reports by students on research in environmental science and related areas. This is a unique type of seminar in which knowledge from different areas will be integrated and students will write technical reports from the notes of the lectures combined with literature research. (Only one credit hour for any given semester will be allowed).

AGSC 0604. NON-THESIS GRADUATE PROJECT PROPOSAL SEMINAR. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semesters II. Lect. 1, 1 credit. Lectures from visiting scientists, and other organizations on topics related to environmental science. Presentation of project results for non-thesis graduate projects by students on research in environmental science and related areas. This is a unique type of seminar in which knowledge from different areas will be integrated and students will write technical reports from the notes of the lectures combined with literature research. (Only one credit hour for any given semester will be allowed).

AGSC 0699. NON-THESIS GRADUATE PROJECT. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semesters, Summer, 3 credits. Research, preparation and production of final project paper under the directions of a major advisor. Students in this program will be required to select research problems on a specific topic concentrating on the investigation of problems in agricultural, environmental and related sciences.

EVSC 0500. BIO-STATISTICS I. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. Lect. 2, Lab 3, 3 credits. Statistical methods in scientific research. An introductory course in statistics dealing with the application of various methods of analyzing research data to include sampling, randomization, the normal distribution, "t" test, linear regression, correlation, Chi-Square, and analysis of variance of random design. Laboratory assignments require the use of pocket calculators and the University's time share computer.

EVSC 0501. BIO-STATISTICS II. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester. Lect. 2, Lab 3, 3 credits. The application of advanced statistical methods in analyzing biological data to include analysis of two-way experiments, factorial experiments, covariance analysis, least-square analysis with unequal subclass numbers and curvilinear regression. Laboratory assignments require the use of the University's time share computer and departmental microcomputers. Prerequisites: EVSC 0500 or Permission of instructor.

IBSC 0601. RESEARCH ETHICS IN BIOSCIENCE. 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Lec. 2 hours. 3 credits. This course is open only to graduate students. A special focus will be ethical problems in bioscience related to race/ethnicity and work of minority bio-scientists. Instructors will primarily serve as learning guides. Extensive student preparation prior to class is essential. Students are

expected to participate significantly in class discussion and conscientiously contribute to group work. Independent student research will be required. There are no prerequisites.

**\*\*Note: At the time of program development the listed courses comprise AGEC courses; however, any AGEC courses developed hereafter and meet the requirements indicated may be used to fulfill the concentration requirement indicated above. Further, elective courses may include those in any discipline offered at the graduate level (500 or above) as specified**