# GRADUATE PROGRAM CHECKLIST

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts of previous degree (semester 1)</td>
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<td>Excess undergraduate courses declared and certified (semester 1)</td>
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<td>Tentative plan of study (semester 1)</td>
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<td>Select major professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.S. students (semester 2)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. students (semester 3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Official plan of study</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.S. students (semester 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. students (semester 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Microeconomics Preliminary Examination (after completing ECON 606 and 607)</td>
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<td>Ph.D. Prospectus Seminar and Exam (within 3 semesters of micro prelims)</td>
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<td>Thesis format approved</td>
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<td>Electronic thesis deposit to the Graduate School</td>
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<td>Hard Copy of Thesis delivered to Graduate Coordinator (Agricultural Economics Department)</td>
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<td>Finals taken/passed/filed in Grad School Office</td>
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INTRODUCTION

This manual is a reference for graduate students and their advisors. It provides information on degrees requirements, regulations and departmental policies applicable to graduate study in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue. The manual outlines the procedures necessary to attain degree objectives. Failure to comply with the procedures outlined in this manual is likely to delay or jeopardize a student’s progress and cost the student and University time and money.

General requirements concerning admission, academic standards, residence requirements, language proficiency and other graduate school regulations that apply to all graduate students at Purdue are listed in the Policies and Procedures Manual for Administering Graduate Student Programs, which is available for download at http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/downloads/Graduate_School_Policies_and_Procedures_Manual.pdf. This departmental manual repeats some of the general regulations, but also adds regulations and procedures specific to graduate programs administered through the Department of Agricultural Economics.

The graduate programs in Agricultural Economics are designed to prepare students for lifelong careers of professional excellence. Students who meet appropriate standards are granted degrees. Members of the faculty view graduate study as much more than an extension of the undergraduate program and much more than the completion of courses. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of professional growth, maturity and to conduct themselves in an ethical manner at all times. Achieving degree objectives requires the ability to integrate knowledge from formal courses, research papers and other experiences. The faculty is devoted to helping students achieve their academic, intellectual, personal and career goals.

The Agricultural Economics curriculum is in the tradition of the Land-Grant College philosophy: knowledge for the improvement of the human condition. Sound judgment, rigorous analysis and ability to define and solve problems are the goals of the professional agricultural economist. Students are expected to develop and demonstrate these skills and abilities in examinations, courses, research papers, theses and in dialogues with the faculty and other students. Faculty members endeavor to create a challenging environment of scholarship, creativity and freedom of intellectual inquiry. Students are encouraged to work closely with the faculty and to participate in academic activities such as seminars as colleagues of the faculty.

Graduate students also are expected to take an active part in student and departmental affairs. Their contributions to departmental policy and course and curriculum improvement are sought and welcomed. Graduate student representatives participate in many departmental working committees.

The Graduate Committee

Graduate program policy in Agricultural Economics is implemented by the departmental Graduate Committee. This committee is appointed by the Department Head, and members normally serve three-year appointments. The Graduate Committee acts on all admission applications and recommends appropriate policy changes to the faculty. A graduate student represents the graduate student body on the committee and acts on all matters except admission and funding decisions, and decisions regarding personal matters relating directly to other students.

Students who have questions about the graduate program should consult with the Graduate Committee chairperson. Petitions for student programs deviating from normal procedures should be addressed to the Committee. Students always have the right to appeal a decision or ruling. Specific procedures for entering appeals are described in Appendix A.
CLASSIFICATION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Degree-Objective Students

A graduate student's admission to the Department's graduate program and to the graduate school does not constitute admission to candidacy for an advanced degree. The Masters Student becomes a Masters Candidate upon approval of the plan of study (GR-FORM-6) by the Advisory Committee, the Department Head and the Graduate School Dean. The student must be registered as a Masters Candidate during the semester in which the degree is awarded.

A student admitted to the Doctoral program becomes a Doctoral Student after demonstrating competence in English composition and securing approval of the plan of study (GR-FORM-4). The student must be a Doctoral Student during the semester in which the preliminary exam and prospectus exams are taken. The Doctoral Student becomes a Doctoral Candidate upon successful completion of the preliminary prospectus and exams. The student must be registered as a Doctoral Candidate during the semester in which the degree is awarded.

Straight-Through Ph.D. Policy

A student generally will have received an M.S. in Agricultural Economics or the equivalent before beginning his or her Ph.D. program. However, in some cases, students with sufficient background and ability may be admitted to the Ph.D. program without first obtaining the M.S. degree. Such students would be expected to demonstrate superior ability in economic theory and quantitative methods as well as the ability to work independently on original research.

An M.S. student may apply to the Graduate Committee for a straight-through Ph.D. program after two semesters in residence. The application will include a letter of application outlining the student’s case and letters of reference from three Departmental faculty members, including the proposed Ph.D. thesis advisor. These recommendations, as well as performance in courses and on temporary work assignments will be considered by the graduate committee when making a decision regarding application.

M.S. Continuing Ph.D. at Purdue

M.S. students in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue are not automatically accepted into the Ph.D. program. They must demonstrate acceptable performance in the M.S. program and be recommended for further study by the M.S. examining committee.

All M.S. candidates desiring to continue for the Ph.D. degree in the department must make formal application for acceptance to the Ph.D. degree program by sending a letter of request to the Graduate Committee. At the same time, the candidate should ask his/her major professor and two other faculty members to submit letters of recommendation to the Graduate Committee.

Completion of Prior Degree

The faculty requires students to complete the prior degree (B.S. or M.S.) before beginning the M.S. or Ph.D. degree program. New graduate students are asked to provide proof of prior degree (final transcript or diploma) before registering for their first semester at Purdue. M.S. students will not be permitted to register before completing the B.S. degree requirements. Exceptions to this rule are made in the case of students enrolled in the Purdue University 3+2 B.S./M.S. program.

Students admitted to the Doctoral program are not permitted to complete more than 6 hours of the Ph.D. degree program until all requirements for the M.S. degree are completed. Assistantship stipends will be limited to the M.S. degree level until all requirements for the M.S. degree are met. Requests for exceptions may be granted by the Graduate Committee upon petition of the student. This petition must be made in advance of registration for the semester in question.

Non-Degree-Objective Students (Post-Baccalaureate)
Non-degree graduate students are admitted to this classification on the basis of educational services which can be extended to them in order to meet individual educational needs. This classification is appropriate for students taking courses for self-improvement on a non-degree basis, for students sponsored by employers, or for those with specialized training objectives not necessarily consistent with degree objectives.

Admission in this category does not constitute preliminary admission to a degree program. The department makes no commitment to eventually accept the non-degree student into a degree program. However, some non-degree students are accepted into a degree program by the Graduate Committee. If a post-baccalaureate registrant is accepted for a degree objective program, a maximum of 12 hours of work taken on a non-degree basis may be used in the degree program. Such use is subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the usual procedure for plan of study approval. Non-degree students will be advised by the Chairperson of the Graduate Committee or his/her designee.

International Special

International special is a non-degree enrollment limited to foreign students who are sponsored financially by their government or employer to meet objectives not appropriate for an advanced degree. It is limited to a one year period.

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES

English Proficiency Requirements

English proficiency requirements must be completed prior to enrollment or during the first semester.

Written English Requirement:

Students whose native language is English and students from approved English-speaking countries may meet the written English requirement in one of the following ways:

(1) a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal score of 600 or better or a GMAT score 36 or higher;
(2) received a B or higher grade in undergraduate English composition course(s); or
(3) complete ENGL 420, 421, or 304 with a grade of B or better during the first semester.

Students who first language is not English may meet the written English proficiency requirement in one of the following ways:

(1) submit a TOEFL Written English score of 18 or higher;
(2) a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal score of 600 or better or a GMAT score 36 or higher;
(3) or satisfactory completion of ENGL 002 during the first semester.

Spoken English Requirement:

Students whose first language is not English must meet the spoken English proficiency requirement in one of the following ways prior to enrollment:

(1) a TOEFL score of (Writing 18, Speaking 18, Listening 14, Reading 19) or IELPST 8
(2) a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal score of 600 or better or a GMAT score 36 or higher on verbal; or
(3) possession of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States.
Students who are non-native speakers of English but have a permanent visa or U.S. citizenship will not be required to submit a TOEFL examination score.

Prerequisites

Graduate students in agricultural economics come from a variety of backgrounds. It is not unusual for new graduate students to lack some foundation courses which are needed for effective performance in the graduate program. Consequently, the faculty requires all graduate students to demonstrate proficiency in four pre-requisite areas:

- ECON PRINCIPLES (micro and macro theory equivalent to ECON 251/252)
- MATHEMATICS FOR ECONOMISTS (differential calculus and linear algebra equivalent to AGEC 596. Ph.D. students also should have multivariate and integral calculus.)
- STATISTICS (equivalent to STAT 301/501/511)

Acceptable performance in these areas may be established in prior degree programs. Also, deficiencies may be remedied by taking courses early in the student's graduate program. The major professor and Graduate Committee Chairperson will determine acceptability of courses to meet these prerequisites. In cases for which there is doubt concerning their acceptability, the Graduate Committee may require establishment of competency by special examination. Students are expected to complete these prerequisites as early as possible in their program but no later than the end of the second semester in residence. Exceptions must be approved by the Graduate Committee. A completed prerequisite checklist, signed by the major professor, must be submitted with the student's plan of study.

Proficiency in mathematics and written English are especially important for student success. For this reason the department encourages M.S. students to consider enrolling in AGEC 596M (mathematical economics) and/or ENGL 621 (written communication for graduate students). The department recognizes that some M.S. students may enter the program with deficiencies either in mathematical preparation or written communication and therefore, in consultation with the student, the student’s advisor and the graduate program chair, may require the student to enroll in one or both courses as either a prerequisite or co-requisite for other courses. Students may use a maximum of 3 course credits from either AGEC 596M or ENGL 621 on the M.S. plan of study.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Department of Agricultural Economics awards two advanced degrees, the Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy.¹ The Master of Science thesis option program is research oriented and prepares students for careers in research or staff positions in business, government, or education. Students who plan to continue for the Ph.D. degree are encouraged to select this option.

The Master of Science professional option program substitutes additional course credits for the thesis. Students pursuing this option are required to acquire research experience by taking a research oriented special topic course (AGEC 691) of at least 3 credit hours under the supervision of a faculty member.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded to students achieving the highest level of scholastic attainment. The Ph.D. graduate program is designed to train research scientists capable of independent study and research. It is appropriate for those desiring leadership positions in government or business or faculty positions in higher education.

¹The department also offers a distance learning MS/MBA in Food and Agribusiness and the Purdue University 3+2 B.S./M.S. program.
## M.S. and Ph.D. Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master of Science</th>
<th>Doctor of Philosophy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis Option</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professional Option</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum course credits¹ (excluding pre-requisites)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGEC 60200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Ag Economics Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Economic Theory Credits²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Quantitative Credits³</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Core Required Credits⁴</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Specialty Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit at 500+ Level⁵</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Transfer Credits⁶</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Research Credits⁷</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 M.S. students may apply a maximum of 3 credits from either AGEC 59600M or ENGL 62100;  
2 M.S. - ECON 51100, 51200;  
Ph.D. - ECON 60600, ECON 60700, ECON 61500, plus either ECON 60900, ECON 61000 or ECON 61400  
3 M.S. - two of STAT 51200, AGEC 55200, or AGEC 65000;  
Ph.D. - ECON 67000, AGEC 65100, AGEC 65200, AGEC 65400 (2)  
4 Ph.D. - AGEC 62500 (3) or ECON 60800 (2) by permission  
5 Use of course below the 500 level on a plan of study requires approval from the Graduate Committee. Written requests for approval should justify inclusion of these courses on a course by course basis. MGMT/OBHR course work must represent less than 50 percent of the credit hours on a plan of study.  
6 Credit for acceptable courses taken at other universities may be transferred after one satisfactory semester in residence. Undergraduate transfer credits from another university must be declared in excess for the B.S. Degree, must be taken for graduate credit and must be equivalent to Purdue 500 or 600 level courses. Equivalency of transfer credits to Purdue credits is determined by the Graduate School. A maximum of twelve credits may be transferred if earned as excess undergraduate credit or in post-baccalaureate status at Purdue University.  
7 The research credits for the professional option MS degree are in the form of a special problem, the MS thesis and PhD dissertation research credits are not considered "courses".  

Note: Pass-fail grades are acceptable only for prerequisites. Courses must be taken for a grade to be listed on the plan of study. Prerequisite courses and grades will appear on the student's official transcript.
M.S. Required Courses

Economic Theory  ECON 51100 - Intermediate Economics I  
(6 credits minimum)  ECON 51200 - Intermediate Economics II

Quantitative Methods  STAT 51200, AGEC 55200, AGEC 65000  
(6 credits minimum)  See a partial list under Ph.D. electives below. (STAT 30100, STAT 50001 and STAT 51100 are prerequisites and may not be used to satisfy this requirement.)

Policy Analysis (3 credits)  AGEC 60200

M.S. Agricultural Economics Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agribusiness</td>
<td>AGEC 53000</td>
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<td>AGEC 52600</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AGEC 53300</td>
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<td>Agricultural Finance</td>
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<td>AGEC 60000</td>
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<td>Agricultural Policy</td>
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<td>Benefit-Cost Analysis</td>
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<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>AGEC 65000</td>
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<td>AGEC 65100</td>
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<td>Mathematical Programming</td>
<td>AGEC 55200</td>
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<td>AGEC 65200</td>
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<td>Marketing, Price Analysis</td>
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<td>Space, Health and Population</td>
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<td>AGEC 64300</td>
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<td>Welfare Economics</td>
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<td>AGEC 61700</td>
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See Ph.D. elective listing for other electives by area of special interest.

Ph.D. Core Courses

Economic Theory (8 credits)  ECON 60600, ECON 60700, ECON 61500 and one from ECON 60900, ECON 61000 or ECON 61400

Quantitative Methods (10 credits)  AGEC 65100, AGEC 65200, ECON 67000 or equivalent (STAT 51600 or STAT 51900), AGEC 65400

Policy Analysis (3 credits)  M.S. thesis

Macroeconomics (2 or 3 credits)  AGEC 62500 (3) or ECON 60800 (2)

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2 A student's advisory committee approves the plan of study. Determination of whether a particular course is appropriate for a student's plan of study rests with the student's major professor, the Graduate Program Chair and the Department Head.

3 Students should consult MyPurdue for prerequisites and consult with instructors before enrolling in advanced courses.
Ph.D. Suggested Electives

Economics:
ECON 60000  Teaching Economics
ECON 60900  Microeconomic Theory II
ECON 61000  Game Theory
ECON 61100  Macroeconomic Theory II
ECON 61200  Advanced Macroeconomics
ECON 61400  Economics of Information
MGMT 61600-61900  Seminars in Financial Markets

Quantitative Methods:
a) Statistics, Econometrics
   STAT 51600  Basic Probability and Applications
   STAT 51700  Statistical Inference
   STAT 51900  Introduction to Probability
   STAT 52200  Sampling and Survey Techniques
   STAT 52400  Applied Multivariate Analysis
   STAT 52800  Introduction to Mathematical Statistics
   STAT 52900  Applied Decision Theory and Bayesian Statistics
   ECON 67100-67300  Quantitative Economics II-IV
b) Mathematical Programming
   IE 53500    Linear Programming
   IE 53700   Discrete Optimization Models and Algorithms
   IE 53800   Nonlinear Optimization Algorithms and Models
   IE 63300   Dynamic Programming
   MGMT 67600  Management Science
   MGMT 67900  Nonmetric and Nonparametric Methods
c) Other
   IE 53600  Stochastic Models in Operations Research I
   IE 58000  Systems Simulation
   AGEN 56500  Agricultural Systems Engineering

Specialty Area

Students must select one specialty area from the following list. Students have the option of declaring a second specialty area.

◆Agricultural Business Management  ◆International Trade
◆Agricultural Finance         ◆Production Economics
◆International Development   ◆Energy, Resources and Environmental Economics
◆Markets and Industrial Organization ◆Space, Health and Population Economics (SHaPE)

The specialty area is intended to support the thesis research and represent a concentrated study. The specialty area requires nine semester hours of graduate courses related to the specialty area and is subject to the approval of the Graduate Committee. Faulty areas of specialty interest and expertise are listed in Appendix B.

An application with major professor approval describing the desired specialty area must be submitted to the Graduate Committee with the plan of study by the end of the student's third semester. A required course cannot be counted towards meeting minimum hour requirements in a specialty area.
Ph.D. Specialty Areas (9 credit hours or more)

Agricultural Business Management (12 credits minimum):

AGEC 60000 Agricultural Finance or AGEC 61300 Introduction to Economics of Risk
AGEC 62100 Advanced Agricultural Marketing or AGEC 62200 Food System Organization & Policy
AGEC 69100 Economics of Agribusiness Strategy and Marketing

Plus: 3-4 credits from Management depending on area of interest:
Marketing Series
MGMT 62500 Research Methods in Marketing Management (2)
MGMT 62600 Seminar in Marketing Models (2)
(Prerequisites: MGMT 62000 and 67200)
MGMT 62800 Survey of Marketing Theory (3)
Strategy Series
MGMT 65700 Manufacturing Strategy (2)
(Prerequisites: MGMT 61000; MMT 65000; MGMT 66000)
MGMT 65800 Corporate Strat Concepts & Models (2)
MGMT 65900 Strategic Management II (2)
MGMT 67700 Seminar in Quantitative Methods in Management Research (2)
Finance Series
MGMT 61600 Seminar in Finance Markets I (2)
MGMT 61700 Seminar in Finance Markets II (2)
MGMT 61800 Seminar in Managerial Finance I (2)

Agricultural Finance (12 credits minimum):
AGEC 60000 Agricultural Finance
AGEC 61300 Introduction to Economics of Risk
Plus 6 credits from the following:
MGMT 61600 Seminar in Finance Markets I
MGMT 61700 Seminar in Finance Markets II
MGMT 61800 Seminar in Managerial Finance I
MGMT 61900 Seminar in Managerial Finance II

Energy, Resources and Environmental Economics (12 credits minimum):
AGEC 61600 Resource Economics and Policy
AGEC 61900 Applied Economics
Plus two of the following:
AGEC 60400/60800 Welfare Economics (1) and Benefit Cost Analysis (2)
AGEC 61800 Applied General Equilibrium Analysis
AGEC 64000 Agricultural Policy

International Development (9 credits minimum):
AGEC 64000 Agricultural Policy
AGEC 64300 Theory of Economic Development
Plus courses from the following to reach a minimum of 9 credits:
AGEC 60400 Welfare Economics
AGEC 60500 Agricultural Price Analysis
AGEC 60800 Benefit Cost Analysis
AGEC 61200 Production Economics
AGEC 61600 Resource Economics Policy
AGEC 61800 Applied General Equilibrium Analysis
AGEC 62100  Advanced Agricultural Marketing  
AGEC 63100  Theory and Practice of Spatial Econometrics  
AGEC 64400  International Ag Trade  
AGEC 65500  Time Series Analysis or ECON 67300 Time Series Econometrics  
ECON 67400  Microeconomics  

International Trade (9 credits minimum):  
AGEC 64400  International Agricultural Trade  
ECON 63400  International Trade Theory  
ECON 63600  Empirical International Trade  

Plus two of the following:  
ECON 63500  Monetary International Economics  
AGEC 61800  Applied General Equilibrium Analysis  
ECON 69000  Trade Topics  

Markets and Industrial Organization (9 credits minimum):  
AGEC 60500  Agricultural Price Analysis (3)  
AGEC 62100  Advanced Agricultural Marketing (3)  
AGEC 62200  Food System Organization and Policy (3)  
AGEC 690F  Applied Contract Theory and Mechanism Design (3)  
ECON 62000  Industrial Organization I (2)  
ECON 62100  Industrial Organization II (2)  
ECON 63100  Empirical Industrial Organization (2)  
ECON 61100  Game Theory (2)  
ECON 67600  Economics of Uncertainty and Information I (2)  
ECON 62200  Public Economics (2)  
ECON 67400  Microeconometrics (2)  
ECON 68600  Experimental Economics I (2)  
ECON 68500  Experimental Economics II (2)  

Production Economics (9 credits minimum):  
AGEC 61200  Production Economics  
AGEC 61300  Introduction to Economics of Risk  
AGEC 61900  /AGEC 614  Applied Economics or Production Economics II  

Students are encouraged to explore:  
AGEC 60000  Agricultural Finance  
AGEC 61600  Resource Economics Policy  
AGEC 63100  Theory and practice of Spatial Econometrics  
AGEC 64000  Agricultural Policy  
AGEC 64300  Theory of Economic Development  
AGEC 65500  Time Series Analysis  
ECON 67300  Econometrics  
ECON 67400  Microeconometric  
AGEC 69000  Applied Contract Theory and Mechanism Design  

Space, Health and Population Economics (10 credits minimum):
AGEC 63000  Urban and Regional Economics (3)
AGEC 63100  The Theory and Practice of Spatial Econometrics (3)
AGEC 69100  Global Issues in Health and Demography (3)
AGEC 63300  Advanced Topics in Space, Health and Population Economics
               (1 credit seminar, taken multiple semesters with a max of 3 credits)

In the selection of electives to be determined with your advisory committee the following classes may provide a good fit:
AGEC 60500  Agricultural Price Analysis (3)
AGEC 60800  Benefit-Cost Analysis (2)
AGEC 61600  Resource Economics and Policy (3)
AGEC 62100  Advanced Agricultural Marketing (3)
AGEC 64000  Agricultural Policy (3)
AGEC 64300  Theory of Economic Development (3)
ECON 62200  Public Economics I (2)
ECON 65000  Labor Economics (2)
ECON 67400  Microeconometrics (2)
ECON 67600  Economics of Uncertainty and Information I (2)
AGEC 65500  Time Series Econometrics (3)
agiADAGEC 69100  a

Special Topics Courses

Advanced seminars are designed to explore the frontiers of knowledge in particular areas. They are scheduled periodically. A student may arrange for a special topic course with a faculty member. This procedure affords the student the opportunity to obtain specialized knowledge and skills in subjects that are not of interest to enough students to form a regular class. Special topic courses may be counted towards meeting minimum hour requirements in a specialty area. Students wishing to enroll in or foster a seminar or special topics course in a particular area should consult their advisor and Assistant Head for Teaching.

Special topic courses are numbered AGEC 69100 or AGEC 69000 and approval of the supervising staff member must be secured prior to enrollment. The title, number of credits, and supervisor's designator code must be indicated on the registration form.

Traveling Scholar Program

Ph.D. students are eligible to participate in the CIC Traveling Scholar Program. This enables the student to study at another cooperating institution in order to take advantage of special resources available on another campus. The twelve participating universities are the members of the Big Ten Conference and the University of Chicago. Students should confer with the Graduate School for further information and procedures to be followed.

Research in Absentia

Ph.D. candidates who have completed course work, the micro examination and the thesis prospectus seminar and exam may conduct thesis research in absentia if they meet the following conditions:

(1) An agreed upon plan with the major professor that outlines a suitable problem and method of accomplishing the research is made, (2) time to conduct research and adequate facilities will be available for the student in absentia, and (3) permission is received from the Department Head and Graduate Dean. (Involves submitting request in quintuplet on form GR-79-9 at least one month prior to the session for which absentia registration is requested.) Candidates in absentia must complete their dissertation research prior to the end of the sixth semester after they pass their prospectus exam unless an extension is granted upon written petition to the Graduate Committee. Further details, including registration in absentia and
registration in the semester of graduation, can be found in the Graduate School's Policies and Procedures Manual for Administering Graduate Student Programs.

Candidates who have a Purdue University appointment may not register for research in absentia. They may, however, be eligible to apply for change of duty station. Normally, such a request will not be approved until course work, preliminary examinations, and thesis prospectus seminar have been satisfactorily completed. See the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual for further information on change of duty station.

Master of Science:

a. At least one-half of the total credits used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned in residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted. Course credits obtained via televised instruction from a campus shall be considered to have been obtained in residence on that campus.

b. At least 36 total credits are required for thesis-option (24 course credits/12 research credits) and 36 credits for the professional option.

Doctor of Philosophy:

a. At least one-third of the total credits used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned (while registered for Ph.D. study) in continuous residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted.

b. At least 90 total credits are required (minimum of 50 course credits).

SELECTION OF MAJOR PROFESSOR AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Incoming students will be provided a temporary major professor in their area of interest prior to arrival. An essential responsibility of the graduate student is to select a permanent major professor. The selection of a major professor and the thesis research area normally go hand in hand. In most cases, the major professor serves both as the student's academic advisor and thesis research supervisor. However, the major advisor is not always the same person who will supervise a research assistant's work assignment.

The Graduate Committee Chairperson or designated temporary counselor will serve as the student's advisor until a major professor is selected. Students with assistantships should discuss their temporary assignment with the Department Head at the time of their first registration.

Early in the first semester, new graduate students are given a list (the "Research Cafeteria") of professors and research projects which are appropriate for graduate student research. Graduate students are encouraged to personally visit with faculty members about their research interests. After studying the list of projects and consulting with the staff member involved, students may request the Department Head to designate a professor as their major professor.

M.S. students are encouraged to select a major professor by the end of their first semester in residence. They are required to choose a major professor no later than the end of their second semester in residence. Ph.D. students are encouraged to make their selection by the end of their second semester in residence. They are required to choose a major professor, submit the plan of study and the request for specialty area courses by the end of their third semester. Students should avoid unnecessary delays in choosing their major professor because the choice of research supervisor and project will often influence the final plan of study. For funding implications, see the section on Financial Assistance for Graduate Students.

Thesis-option M.S. students and all Ph.D. students must include thesis topic information with their request which is submitted to the Department Head. Departmental priorities, availability of funding, student interests and faculty preference are taken into account in approving major professor assignments.
Students with Departmental graduate assistantships have special responsibilities in the selection of a thesis topic and major professor. It may be necessary in some cases to assign a student on a research assistantship to a funded project even though it is not the student's first choice for a thesis topic. This procedure is necessary to insure that there will be funds to pay the assistantship stipend and that the contractual obligations of the Department are met. Contracts, grants, and ARP funded projects are a major source of this financing.

**Plans of Study**

The department requires new students to draft a tentative plan of study early in the first semester. The Graduate Chairperson, members of the Graduate Committee and other counselors assist the student in developing this tentative plan of study, which may subsequently be revised by the student and his advisory committee.

It is departmental policy that all graduate students prepare and file the formal plan of study as early as possible in their program. This is to the student's benefit, for it insures thorough program planning and feasible scheduling of courses. Preparation of the Ph.D. plan of study should include designation of courses for the proposed specialty areas. The plan of study if completed online through MyPurdue serves to appoint the student's major professor and advisory committee. The plan of study must be approved by the student, the advisory committee, the Department Head, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

The plan of study may require revision as the program progresses. Requests for changes are made online at MyPurdue. The major professor is responsible for obtaining advisory committee approval of changes before they are made.

The plan of study will contain required courses, elective courses, and transfer courses. Transfer credits can be used to satisfy degree requirements, within limitations. The faculty challenges each student to develop a unique plan of study to meet individual academic objectives and career goals. There is no standard plan of study for all students in agricultural economics.

**Selection of the Advisory Committee**

After selecting a major professor, the student and major professor select the other members of the advisory committee. The major professor is chairman of the advisory committee. The advisory committee can contribute to the student's educational experience in several ways.

1. The committee reviews previous training, recommends prerequisite courses, and assists in formulating the student's plan of study. All committee members must approve the plan of study.

2. The committee confers with and advises the student regarding his or her rate of progress toward completion of degree requirements.

3. The committee advises the student in all phases of the thesis research, including procedures, analytical concepts and methods and thesis organization.

4. The committee advises the student on the appropriate time to take the prospectus and final exams. The advisory committee serves as the final examination committee for the M.S. and Ph.D. student, unless justification for a different examination committee is presented to and approved by the Department Head.
M.S. Advisory Committee

The advisory committee for the M.S. program consists of at least three members representing the student's primary and related areas of study. The members will usually be from the Agricultural Economics Department but may be from other departments depending on the student's research topic.

Ph.D. Advisory Committee

Departmental policy requires four members for the Ph.D. advisory committee. They represent the student's areas of study. Larger committees are permissible. One member on the plan of study must be from outside the Agricultural Economics Department.

Students in the last phases of their M.S. or Ph.D. programs whose major professor will be absent from campus due to long-term assignments and/or sabbatical leave (longer than 3 months) are strongly encouraged to have a co-major professor assigned to their program. A co-major professor is usually an advisory committee member who will serve as a liaison during the original major professor's absence.

REGISTRATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Students in residence are encouraged to pre-register before the end of each semester in order to avoid delayed registration. The University assesses penalties for late registration.

Credit Loads: Eighteen hours of course and/or research credit is the maximum registration allowed in the Graduate School. Students normally register for 12 course credits per fall/spring semester, 6 credits for summer session. The research credit (AGEC 69800 and 69900) load varies.

Students not on staff appointment are permitted to register for any combination of research and course credits which does not exceed 18 credits, accurately represents the student's research activity, and fulfills the residence requirements. Students on staff appointment should refer to the section on registration of graduate students and the associated table.

Auditing Classes: Students may audit classes with no participation required and no records maintained. Rates are the same as for credit courses. For instructions go to Room 45 of Hovde Hall.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades are given if the student's work is interrupted by an unavoidable absence or other cause beyond the student's control. Students need not re-register for courses in which they received an incomplete (I). Incomplete grades must be removed by the 12th week of the next semester the course is offered. If the student fails to complete the course by this deadline, the grade is automatically changed to an "F" which is never removed from the student's transcript. However, the grade of the repeated course will replace the "F" and will be used in the GPA.

Research Credit: All graduate students engaged in thesis research activities (faculty consultation, library use, thesis writing, computer use, literature review, etc.) are required to register for research credits in addition to courses. M.S. thesis option students register for AGEC 698. M.S. professional option students register for AGEC 691. Ph.D. students register for AGEC 699.

Students in the following categories must also register for some research credits:

1. Any student receiving Departmental financial assistance for thesis research. (The research registration should correspond to the proportion of time spent on Departmental activities.)
2. Research credits for which the student receives an "Unsatisfactory" grade will not count toward satisfaction of the residency requirement. Two consecutive sessions of "U" grades for research registration mandate that the Department take formal action and inform the Graduate School with regard to either discontinuation or conditions for continuation of the student's graduate study.

3. Any M.S. thesis-option or Ph.D. student in his or her last semester who has not obtained thesis format approval. (The minimum registration for research credit is three hours. See the section on Final Semester Registration for alternatives after thesis format approval is obtained.)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

M.S. Students

a. M.S. students in the Department of Agricultural Economics whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) for courses on their plans of study drops below 3.0 will automatically be put on probation. If the cumulative index is not raised to 3.0 or better in the following semester, the student will be dropped from the program unless the Graduate Committee grants an exception. In the case of a student without an official plan of study filed with the Graduate School, all courses will be counted in calculating this GPA. (The Purdue University transcript cumulative GPA will be used.) In the event that a course is repeated, the last grade received will be used in calculating the index.

b. The M.S. degree will not be granted in the case of failure to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better for courses on the plan of study unless the Graduate Committee grants an exception. Exceptions will only be granted in the event of extenuating circumstances. Requests for exception must be made in writing to the Graduate Committee.

c. Professional Master's candidates who fail their written and oral exam will be permitted to retake the exam one time. Failure on the second attempt will result in automatic disqualification from the program.

d. Major professors are expected to monitor progress toward degree objectives and performance. In consultation with the student's advisory committee, they have a responsibility to advise the candidate to withdraw from the program if it becomes clear that the candidate is not capable of successfully completing the degree program.

e. Full-time M.S. students must complete their programs within two years after first registration unless continuation is granted by the Graduate Committee upon written request.

Ph.D. Students

a. Ph.D. students are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. If a student's GPA drops below this level, he or she will automatically be placed on probation. If the cumulative grade index is not raised to 3.0 or better in the following semester, the student will be dropped from the program unless the Graduate Committee grants an exception. Exceptions will be granted only in the case of extenuating circumstances. The petition for continuation in these circumstances must be submitted in writing.

b. Major professors are expected to monitor progress toward degree objectives and performance. In consultation with the student's advisory committee, they have a responsibility to advise the candidate to withdraw from the program if it becomes clear that the candidate is not capable of successfully completing the degree program.

c. Full-time students are required to sit for the microeconomic theory prelim covering the material taught in ECON 60600, ECON 60700 and ECON 61500 at the first opportunity after these courses have been completed. The exam must be taken no later than within three full semesters (excluding summers) of the date when they first
register as a doctoral student. Exceptions may be granted upon submission of a written request to the Graduate Committee.

d. Graduate School regulations permit a second attempt to pass the economic theory and agricultural economics prospectus exams if the candidate fails on the first attempt. A third attempt may be permitted only upon written petition to the Graduate School.

e. After passing the microeconomic theory exam, the Ph.D. student will write a dissertation prospectus and present during a seminar and examination. See "Ph.D. Thesis Prospectus Seminar" paragraph under the "Thesis Procedures" section. The prospectus is normally presented in the fall semester of the start of a student's third year in the Ph.D. program.

f. Candidates in residence must complete their dissertation research prior to the end of the fourth semester after they pass their prospectus exam unless an extension is granted upon written petition to the Graduate Committee.

g. Candidates in absentia must complete their dissertation research prior to the end of the sixth semester after they pass their prospectus exam unless an extension of this period is granted upon written petition to the Graduate Committee. Such permission will be granted only under extenuating circumstances.

EXAMINATIONS

Graduate students take comprehensive examinations in order to test their levels of professional competence. There are two exams for the Ph.D. degree and one for the M.S. degree. In addition, there is a thesis defense for thesis M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. The evaluation of student performance on written and oral thesis examinations is guided by a set of learning outcomes. These have been designed by the faculty to assess student competency in key areas of academic and professional development. The rubrics used to evaluate student performance on thesis examinations are provided in Appendix C.

Preliminary Examinations for Ph.D. Students

Successful completion of the preliminary examination constitutes formal admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The preliminary examination consists of two parts; microeconomic theory and the Preliminary and Prospectus Examination in Agricultural Economics. Any student who fails either examination twice (or three times if the petition for a third examination is granted by the Graduate School) must leave the program.

Microeconomic Theory Preliminary Examination

A qualifying examination in microeconomic theory is administered by the Department of Economics. This examination is given twice per year in (typically in June and July) and all Ph.D. students in Agricultural Economics must pass the portions of this exam covering the required sequence of microeconomic theory courses. It is important that students progress through the Ph.D. Program of Study in a reasonable amount of time. For this reason, students are required to take the Microeconomic Theory Qualifying Exam at the first opportunity after they have completed ECON 60600, ECON 60700 and ECON 61500 and no later than the first opportunity after completion of four semesters (including summer sessions) after the date that they have entered the doctoral program. Exceptions may be granted upon submission of a written petition to the Graduate Committee.

The written portion of the microeconomics exam is prepared by faculty in the Department of Economics and jointly evaluated by a committee of faculty in Agricultural Economics and Economics. Each written exam question is graded independently by two (or more) faculty members. This grading is done "blind" – i.e., with students identified only by number. Grades for individual questions are on a scale from 0.0 to 4.0 (in tenths), based on the following criteria:
4.0 Excellent, a very high quality answer
3.0 Good, an acceptable answer indicative of a competent graduate student
2.0 Fair, a passing answer
1.0 Poor, an unacceptable answer with some evidence of competence
0.0 Fail, an unacceptable answer with no evidence of competence

With an average score of more than 2.0 overall and a score on at least one question exceeding 3.0, the outcome would be an outright pass. While a 2.0 is a minimal pass for an individual question, a uniform grade of approximately 2.0 on all questions would not be a pass – but could lead to a rewrite opportunity on one or more questions. With an average of less than 1.7 the outcome would be an outright fail. Examinations that do not fall under the clear pass or clear fail criteria will be evaluated by the committee to determine what additional evidence is needed (e.g., oral examination, rewrites of specific questions) to resolve the grade to either pass or fail.

After graders' decisions have been made, students' identities are revealed to the grading committee. Any student who does not pass the written theory examination on the second attempt must be given an oral examination on microeconomic theory.

If a student clearly passes or fails the written exam on the first attempt, then no oral exam is scheduled. If a student clearly fails the written exam on their first attempt then the student must retake the written exam at its next offering. On a second attempt, no student will receive a failing grade without an opportunity to participate in an oral exam. If an oral exam is required, it will be scheduled as soon as practical after the results of the written examination have been communicated to the student.

Oral examinations are administered by representatives from both the Economics and Agricultural Economics faculty. The oral examination committee will consist of one representative of the Department of Economics faculty, the chair of the Agricultural Economics Prelim Committee (or designee of the Department Head), two members of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Teaching Faculty, and the student’s advisor or designee. The Preliminary Examination Committee chair (or designee of the Department Head) will serve as the chair of the oral examination. The student’s advisor and the representative of the Economics faculty will be non-voting members of the committee, but they may take part in any discussions concerning the student’s performance. A simple majority of the three voting members is required to award either a passing or failing grade on the Microeconomic Theory Qualifying Exam in its entirety, including both the written and oral performances.

**Agricultural Economics Preliminary and Prospectus Examination**

All Ph.D. students who have passed the microeconomic theory prelim are expected to prepare for and pass a Preliminary and Prospectus Examination in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The purpose of the Preliminary and Prospectus Examination is to assess the student’s preparation to do the proposed research and to make contributions in his/her field(s) of specialization.

The Preliminary and Prospectus Examination will be chaired by the Graduate Program Chair or his/her designee and will rely on an Examining Committee consisting of the Graduate Program Chair (or designee), all members of the student’s Ph.D. advisory committee and one additional examiner appointed by the Graduate Program Chair (or designee).

The Preliminary and Prospectus Examination will include at a minimum the oral and written presentation of a prospectus document describing the student’s detailed proposed plan of research and a review of the relevant literature that indicates the student’s potential contribution. The thesis prospectus will be presented orally in a session open to faculty, staff and students. This open session will be followed immediately by a closed session involving the student and the Examining Committee during which the Examining Committee may question the student regarding her/his proposed research as well as knowledge of the area(s) of specialization and appropriate tools for the analysis. The majority vote of this Examining Committee will determine whether the student has passed the exam. The student’s advisory committee will have broad
flexibility and responsibility to direct the student in his or her preparation for the examination and, working in conjunction with the Graduate Program Chair, in how the examination is to be structured. Such preparation may include, for example, written or oral responses to questions the committee may pose. If the Examining Committee deems the student’s performance to be inadequate, a second attempt at the Preliminary and Prospectus Examination will be allowed. Attempts beyond the second will be allowed only with approval of a petition to the Graduate School. Students will be required to successfully complete the Preliminary and Prospectus Examination within three semesters (not including summers) after successfully completing the Microeconomic Theory Prelim Exam (typically the fall semester of the students 3rd year in the Ph.D. program).

Final Examination for Ph.D. and Thesis-Option M.S. Candidates

A final oral examination is taken after the completion of all course work and the thesis. This exam may cover any material in the candidate’s program, but usually is a defense of the thesis. In the case of Ph.D. candidates, at least two semesters must elapse and be devoted to research between the preliminary and final dissertation examinations.

The final thesis examining committee for both the M.S. and Ph.D. student will be the student’s advisory committee, unless a different committee is justified. Any change in the final examining committee from the advisory committee must be requested in writing to the Department Head, stating the reason. Members of the advisory committee approving the request will add their signatures.

The final examining committee shall consist of at least three members for M.S. candidates and four members for Ph.D. candidates. The candidate’s areas of study shall be represented on the examining committee.

Final Examination for Professional Option M.S. Candidates

A final oral examination is taken after the completion of all course work and the research paper. This exam may cover any material in the candidate’s program, but usually is a defense of the research paper.

The final examining committee for the Professional M.S. student will be the student’s advisory committee, unless a different committee is justified. Any change in the final examining committee from the advisory committee must be requested in writing to the Department Head, stating the reason. Members of the advisory committee approving the request will add their signatures.

The final examining committee shall consist of at least three members for M.S. candidates. The examination procedure is intended to maintain the same standards of performance for the two M.S. degree options (thesis and professional). Only one M.S. degree is awarded by the Department, although there are alternative programs to obtain it.

The specific procedures for completing the all PhD/MS examination are as follows:

1. The student will arrange the examination date with the major professor and advisory committee through the Graduate Coordinator.

2. Arrangements for the examination will be made at least two weeks in advance in order to allow time for the committee to read the thesis/dissertation/research paper.

3. The student will provide a final copy of the thesis/dissertation/research paper to all committee members at least two weeks in advance of the final examination.
THESIS PROCEDURES

Thesis Preparation

All Ph.D. candidates and thesis-option M.S. students are required to write a thesis. Before a thesis can be accepted by the University Library, format approval must be completed. Format approval involves a two step procedure. The first step is a review of the thesis manuscript in the Department of Agricultural Economics by a person approved by the Department Head. Once the thesis has received departmental format approval, it must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School Thesis Office for final approval when the thesis is deposited.

The departmental review will cover stylistic matters, e.g., tables, figures, footnote, appendices, etc. The format guidelines may be found in A Manual for the Preparation of Graduate Theses available from the Graduate School Office. For citation guidelines, table and figure preparation, footnotes, and equations, the student should consult the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Thesis format approval must be obtained at least three weeks prior to the last day of classes in the semester in which the degree is expected. Examining Committees are not obligated to examine students over a thesis for which departmental format approval has not been secured. The thesis must be in the hands of the Examining Committee at least two weeks in advance of the final examination. The final oral examination must be completed one week before the last day of classes of the semester in which the degree is to be awarded (i.e. no exam during "dead week"). Final doctoral examinations must be announced two weeks in advance so that interested members of the Purdue faculty and student body may attend.

A completed and corrected thesis meeting the University's specifications must be electronically deposited with the Graduate School Thesis Office at least 24 hours before the formal deposit appointment (the last day of the semester in which the student expects to graduate). The thesis receipt must be delivered to the Graduate School Office by 4:00 p.m. before the end of the first working day following the last day of classes.

Thesis and Abstract Distribution

Electronic deposit copy to the Graduate School
Bound copies of the thesis:
  Department Head (for Krannert Library)
  Major Professor and Advisory Committee

The Department Head will not approve the Graduate School copy until a copy is provided for the Krannert Library. The approval of the Department Head is required when Departmental financing is desired for extra thesis copies to distribute to cooperating departments, industries, or other institutions.

Students taking thesis-option degrees in other departments based on research financed by agricultural economics assistantships are expected to furnish one thesis copy to the Head of the Agricultural Economics Department. This copy will be placed in the Krannert Library.

To satisfy the academic requirement that all theses be widely published, Purdue University has made arrangements for all theses to be microfilmed by University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The thesis microfilm fee must be paid in the Office of the Bursar as specified by the Registrar. Candidates will receive no direct billing or reminder from the Bursar relative to the payment of this fee.

Publication Responsibility

Publication is an integral part of research. Thesis research is expected to be of publishable quality. Students holding departmental research assistantships are required to make available their research results in rough draft publication form well before the graduate degree is conferred. The major professor has the responsibility for determining whether such a
draft is adequately prepared and of sufficient interest to warrant publication. However, the major professor may waive the student's publication requirement. Upon doing so, the student assumes the publication responsibilities.

DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES, SUPPLIES, AND SERVICES

Graduate students in the Department of Agricultural Economics have access to a variety of research and educational facilities. It is the student's responsibility to become acquainted with these facilities and understand the procedures for using them.

Office Assignments

The Department attempts to provide office space for all research and teaching assistants in the Krannert Building which is accessible for the disabled and has been designated a non-smoking facility. Office assignments are the responsibility of the Department Head, though he may delegate this function to others. The Department Head approves all student office assignments.

a. Available office space shall be allocated to persons admitted to the Graduate School who are research or teaching assistants as follows:

(1) Post-prelim Ph.D.,
(2) Ph.D. student in the process of studying for and taking preliminary examinations,
(3) M.S. student with plan of study complete and working on thesis,
(4) Ph.D. student prior to preliminary examinations,
(5) M.S. student with plan of study not completed, and
(6) Non-degree seeking students.

b. Persons admitted to the Graduate School who are paid in part or in full by other than standard assistantships may have their supervisor request special consideration in office assignment. If the request is not granted, the usual graduate student priorities will apply. A request for special consideration should be based on job requirements such as:

(1) Special communication needs, e.g., telephone,
(2) Special access, e.g., student traffic for those teaching or counseling students,
(3) Special storage, security, and workspace needs, or
(4) Special computer or terminal needs.

c. Office assignments for persons not admitted to the Purdue Graduate School shall be made by the Department Head.

Authorization from the Graduate Coordinator is needed for key assignment. Student offices are furnished. Students may not paint, remove or add furniture to the offices.

Office Supplies: Graduate students on research assistantships and sponsored students who have made provisions for research support are provided paper and office supplies to be used in connection with their research. The department cannot furnish office supplies for course work or non-research purposes. Requests for supplies should be made to the student's major professor, who will determine if supplies can be furnished.

Statistical and Computer Assistance: In their orientation program, new graduate students will be introduced to the computer facilities available to them. Students are expected to do their own computer work. Assistance is available from selected faculty members and the computer staff employed by the Department.
**Book Purchases:** If the graduate student requires research materials which are not available on campus, the student and the major professor may request the Associate Head or the Library Committee to purchase the materials. All students and staff are invited to work with the library committee in ordering books to keep the library current in their area.

**Travel Arrangements:** Graduate students may need to travel in their research and other Departmental duties. All requests to travel on University funds or with University vehicles should be coordinated through the major professor and the AGEC Business Office.

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**PROGRAM TERMINATION**

**Final Semester Registration**

If all degree requirements have been met before the first day of classes, students may register for "Degree Only". Students who register for "Examination Only" must submit a positive Report of Final Examination form and a Thesis Receipt by the eighth week of the semester or the privileged registration will be converted to one hour of research and additional fees will be assessed. This status carries a reduced fee and requires approval of the Graduate School. Students are required to have been registered for a minimum of three hours of research in the preceding session to be eligible for this privileged registration. This option is available only once.

Ph.D. and M.S. students in thesis options must register for a minimum of three research credits (AGEC 698 or 699) for the semester in which they expect to receive the degree, if they are not eligible to register for "degree only" or "exam only".

Students doing research in absentia should inform the Graduate School and the Department of the semester in which they intend to graduate.

Early in the semester in which the student has declared he or she is a candidate for graduation, the major professor will receive a candidate audit from the Graduate School. This audit indicates the degree requirements completed to date by the student and the requirements yet to be completed. The major professor indicates on this form whether or not the student is or is not a bona fide degree candidate for that semester.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate the candidate clearing process. This is done by checking the "graduate candidate" box on the registration form (23) for the semester in which the student intends to graduate. In all cases candidacy must be declared within the four weeks of the start of the semester in which the student wishes to receive the degree.

**Exit Interview**

All students are required to complete the Graduate School Exit Questionnaire and schedule an exit interview with the Chair of the Graduate Committee.

**Placement Services**

Agricultural economics graduates find employment in the business, government, and educational sectors. The Department assists the student in job identification, and the faculty has frequent contacts with potential employers. Students should indicate their availability and job preferences to faculty members whose interests bring them in contact with prospective employers.

Notices of employment opportunities are available from the Graduate Coordinator and the monthly web newsletter Keeping Track. Graduate students are also eligible to use the University Placement Service.

**Commencement Participation**
The Registrar issues directives and information to candidates relative to their participation in commencement exercises. Diplomas approved too late for commencement and those of non-participants are mailed by the Registrar.

Students are to be allowed to participate in commencement exercises only if they are eligible to receive a degree upon successful completion of the courses in which they are currently enrolled. They are to be removed from the list if they don’t meet these criteria. Students must have completed all coursework on the plan of study and the final examination scheduled in the semester in which a student wishes to be designated as a candidate to be eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies.

**Re-Entry Procedures**

All graduate students (degree or non-degree) who have not registered for one semester or more must file an application if they wish to be re-admitted. This is done by filing an on-line Graduate School application at least a month before classes start. The application will be processed through the Departmental Graduate Committee and the Graduate School in the same way as any other application for admission. Students planning to drop out and re-enter a semester or more later should discuss their plans with the Graduate Committee Chairperson. Obtaining tentative approval of the plans from the Graduate Committee can facilitate re-entry. The Graduate School’s *Policy and Procedures Manual for Administering Graduate Student Programs* may be referred to for further details, such as re-entry in a different department or at a regional campus.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Agricultural economics graduate students at Purdue finance their education in a variety of ways:

a. Self-financing.
b. Fellowships and traineeships offered by foreign and domestic government agencies, industries, foundations and other scholarship agencies.
c. Purdue University fellowships.
d. Residence Hall counselor.
e. Departmental graduate assistantships (thesis/dissertation required)

**Departmental Graduate Assistantship**

The Department has financial support in the form of assistantships for a limited number of qualified graduate students. Graduate student assistants are employees of Purdue University. These assistantships are awarded competitively and initially involve research, teaching or extension service to the Department in return for a stipend. Students who receive funding from outside sources (see item b above) are not eligible for funding from Purdue. Graduate students holding Departmental appointments are research assistants and are **required** to complete a thesis or dissertation.

**Stipend**

Contact the Business Office for the current stipend level. Extra stipends may be awarded to RAs working on extramurally funded projects. Increments in these stipends may be awarded to recruit especially promising students. Students on quarter-time assistant work 10 hours per week, one-half time assistants work 20 hours per week. All stipends are 12 month appointments.
Procedures Regarding Graduate Assistant Employment/Assistantship Benefits

1. All assistantships must be approved by the Department Head and are subject to the availability of funds.
2. The assignment of assistants to projects and the duration of assistants' appointments will be decided by the Department Head. The Graduate Committee will provide recommendations in accordance with current policy.
3. Assistantship stipends will typically begin on the first day of classes of the student's first semester. Continuation of assistantships depends on satisfactory academic performance (see next section). Stipends will end on the day of final deposit, unless the last day of work is clearly some other date or the assistantship has expired.
4. Graduate staff are exempt from tuition and fees except for registration and service fees.
5. Payday is the last working day of each month.
6. Pay increases will take effect at the beginning of the month following the date of eligibility.
7. All graduate assistants in the Department are twelve-month employees of the University. As such, they receive 22 days of vacation per year, accrued at the rate of two days per month except for the months of March and September. Graduate assistants should not assume that they are automatically on vacation during academic holidays such as semester breaks, spring break, etc. Rather, days off must be approved in advance by the major professor. Purdue University does not pay for terminal vacation which may have accrued upon completion of the degree. Purdue University also has a policy allowing two weeks sick leave and 15 days per year military leave.
8. Graduate staff may purchase tickets to athletic, social and cultural events at staff rates.
9. Graduate staff are entitled to the use of Departmental and University facilities and equipment in carrying out their assistantship duties. This includes secretarial service for approved projects (typing of the thesis is not included). Requests for Departmental and University facilities should be made through the major professor or supervisors.
10. Graduate staff may rent student housing at the rates applicable to all graduate students.
11. Graduate staff with less than three-quarter-time appointments are not granted campus parking or driving permits. However, for those living 1.3 miles from campus, there are commuter permits. Parking space is provided at residence units.
12. Graduate staff are not entitled to social security, retirement, life insurance, staff dependent fee reductions, tenure, sabbatical leave or other fringe benefits of the academic, administrative, or clerical staff.

Performance

Assistantships are awarded partly on the basis of academic merit. Graduate assistants are expected to maintain high standards of performance in their academic activities as follows:

M.S. Students
a. Students holding departmental assistantships are required to register for 12 credit hours of coursework and maintain a cumulative grade index of 3.0 or better. Academic performance below this level will result in automatic review and possible loss of assistantship. A thesis is required.
b. Assistantship funding for M.S. students is limited to 3 semesters plus 1 summer session from the date of entry into the program, unless an extension is granted. Funding cannot exceed two year.
c. M.S. students enrolled in the professional option are not eligible for research assistantship support.

Ph.D. Students
a. Students holding departmental assistantships are required to register for 12 credit hours of coursework and maintain a cumulative grade index of 3.0 or better. Failure to maintain the level of performance will result in automatic review and possible loss of assistantship.
b. Failure to pass a preliminary exam will result in automatic review and possible loss of assistantship.
c. Funding for students who have an M.S. degree from another institution is limited to 3 years from the date of entry into the program, unless an extension is granted.
d. Funding for students who take both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department may continue for up to 4 years from the date of entry into program, unless an extension is granted. Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the Department Head.

Duties
Students holding graduate appointments are temporary employees of the Department and Purdue University. They are expected to be familiar with and adhere to University procedures and policies and to use University property and facilities with good judgment.

The terms of student employment or funding usually included employment during the summer months. During this period students are expected to be on campus and regularly available (e.g. in the office) as well as in communication with the faculty supervisor. Federal labor laws forbid one to receive a paycheck from a public institution such as Purdue while not performing the duties of his/her job. On occasion, a research assistant assignment may require a student employee to be away from campus for an extended period of time for data collection or other project-related activities. In such cases, students are required to file a request for Change of Duty Station with the department business office. Travel for conference attendance or other professional activities and for vacation are also allowable reasons to be away from the campus community. Again, the proper approval should be sought through the business office before taking such leaves even if the student is self-funding travel to a professional event. In the case of approved professional travel, students are expected to submit a Form 17 at least 2 weeks prior to travel.

If a student is away from campus without approval or is found to be not performing the duties of his or her work assignment, then the department reserves the right to terminate the students employment immediately. In the case of a serious personal matter that may arise the business office can help the student file appropriate paperwork to acknowledge these events and give the student latitude to be away from campus as needed. The key is for the student to communicate clearly with the major professor, the graduate coordinator or chair, and/or the Business Office Staff.

Students being supported on extramurally funded projects will write a thesis consistent with the project’s objectives. Unless a work assignment and thesis topic coincide, the student will be asked to perform non-thesis related tasks at an average rate of 10 hours per week for a one-quarter time assignment and 20 hours per week for one-half time assignments in return for the assistantship. In those rare instances when a research assistant changes to the professional M.S. program, the student must forfeit the assistantship as soon as the decision is made. The appointment of professional M.S. students as research assistants requires the consent of the Department Head. Employment guidelines for graduate assistants are provided in Appendix D.

Research assistants not supported by extramurally funded projects will be given non-thesis related assignments at least once a year, usually in early September. It is possible that a work assignment and a thesis topic may coincide, but this is not guaranteed. The first priority for assigning RAs is to projects that are extramurally funded; non-tenured faculty requests for assistance receive second priority; the quality of the faculty project proposal and a matching of student faculty interests receive the third priority. If the Department’s periodic review of assistantships indicates that the assistantship work of the student is unsatisfactory, the assistantship may be terminated. The non-thesis research assignments will be made and coordinated by the Department Head.

New graduate students often are initially supported with Departmental funds and assigned to a temporary advisor. Students are expected to select a major professor and submit a plan of study by end of their second semester in residence for M.S. students and third semester for Ph.D. students. Students should seek faculty with funded projects in choosing their major professor. However, if a student selects a faculty member without funding, the student will be permitted to remain on department funding for only one additional semester. Special requests for supporting a graduate student on Departmental funds beyond this time period must be submitted in writing to the Department Head.

Registration Policies for Graduate Assistants

To be eligible to hold a graduate staff appointment during any session, an individual must be enrolled as a graduate student in a degree program and be registered as a full-time student.
Resident Study Requirements:

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of C or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research credit hours with grades of S that appear on the Purdue transcript.

Master’s Degree:

a. At least one-half of the total credit hours used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned in residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted. Course credits obtained via distance learning technologies from a campus shall be considered to have been obtained in residence on that campus.
b. At least 30 total credit hours are required.

Doctoral Degree:

a. At least one-third of the total credit hours used to satisfy degree requirements must be earned (while registered for doctoral study) in continuous residence on the Purdue campus where the degree is to be granted.
b. At least 90 credit hours are required;
c. A master’s degree from any accredited university is considered to contribute 30 credit hours toward satisfying this residency requirement.

HARASSMENT POLICY

Consistent with Purdue University policy, the Department of Agricultural Economics maintains a strict policy regarding anti-harassment. We are committed to maintaining an environment that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding and mutual respect; and encourages its members to strive to reach their potential. Harassment in the workplace or the educational environment is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated. We are committed to maintaining an educational and work climate for faculty, staff and students that is positive and free from all forms of Harassment, including Harassment toward individuals with legally protected status for reasons of race, gender, religion, color, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information or disability and Harassment toward individuals for other reasons such as sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status or parental status.

We encourage graduate students to report incidents of Harassment. Retaliation against faculty members, staff members or students for reporting or complaining of Harassment, for assisting or participating in the investigation of a complaint of Harassment, or for enforcing this policy is strictly prohibited. Graduate School Guidelines and Administrative Procedures for Handling of Incidents Involving Harassment are described in Appendix E. The Purdue University policy on Harassment is described in detail at [http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/ethics/x_2_1.shtml](http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/ethics/x_2_1.shtml).
Appendix A

Graduate Council Document 91-C
Graduate Students' Right to Appeal

Graduate students, like all students officially enrolled at Purdue University, are subject to all University regulations. At the same time, their rights as individuals and as students are duly protected. Graduate Students who feel that their rights have been violated by a disciplinary decision may seek redress through the Campus Appeals Board, according to procedures specified in Part 5, Section III, E, 2, e, of University Regulations, which is issued annually. Graduate students who wish to appeal decisions concerning matters of academic standards may seek redress according to procedures specified in Part 5, Section III, E, 2, e, of University Regulations and to the procedures detailed below which have been established in accordance with the authority thereby delegated to the Graduate Council.

APPEALS OF ACADEMIC MATTERS

1. Graduate students who wish to appeal grades received in regular course work may do so only through the grade appeals system as described in Part 5, Section III, E of the University Regulations handbook.

2. Decisions by departmental graduate examination committees whose appointment does not require approval by the dean of the Graduate School (including various departmental examining committees such as those for qualifying examinations) must be appealed within the relevant departments, rather than through the grade appeals system or to the Graduate Council. The initial appeal must be filed with the department head charged with supervising the relevant graduate program. The appeal must be in writing, must specify the grounds for the appeal, and must be filed within 30 days after the issuance of the disputed decision. Upon receipt of such appeal, the department head shall appoint a committee to hear the appeal and to make a determination. Unless the student appeals further to the department head, the appeal committee's decision shall be final. In the event a student chooses to appeal to the department head, such appeal must be in writing and must be delivered to the department head within 10 days of the issuance of the appeal committee's determination. For those matters so appealed to the department head, the decision of the department head shall be final.

3. Appeals of decisions by graduate examination committees whose composition has been authorized by the dean of the Graduate School shall be handled by the following procedures.
   a. The initial appeal must be filed with the department head charged with supervising the relevant graduate program. The appeal must be in writing, must specify the grounds of the appeal, and must be filed within 30 days of the issuance of the decision of the examining committee. The department head shall forward the appeal to the departmental graduate committee with instructions to consider the case and provide the head with a written recommendation. Upon receipt of such recommendation, the head shall make a determination and, in writing, so inform the student.

   b. If the student chooses not to accept the decision of the department head, he or she may request, in writing, within 10 days of the issuance of the determination of the departmental appeal, that the dean of the Graduate School appoint a review board. Such a board shall be composed of five persons chosen at random from among current voting members of the Graduate Council. Council members serving on the advisory or examining committee of the student, Council members serving on the student's departmental graduate committee, and Council members otherwise judged by the dean of the Graduate School to be interested parties shall be ineligible to serve on the review board. The review board shall consider the case and report its recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School, whose decision shall be final.

Intent: Procedure 3.b., above, means that a master's student who fails a final examination, or a doctoral student who is terminated for failing either the preliminary examination or the final examination, after having exhausted departmental appeals, may appeal to a specially constituted panel of the Graduate Council.
Appendix B Faculty and Staff Major Area of Specialization

**Agribusiness Management**
- Tim Baker
- Freddie Barnard
- Michael Boehlje
- Jennifer Dennis
- Frank Dooley
- Scott Downey
- Joan Fulton
- Brent Gloy
- Allan Gray
- Christopher Hurt
- Maria Marshall
- Alan Miller
- Nicole Olynk
- Steve Wu

**Aquaculture**
- Kwamena Quagrainie

**Biotechnology**
- Marshall Martin

**Alternative Agriculture**
- Joan Fulton
- Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer
- Maria Marshall

**Climate Change**
- Otto Doering
- Benjamin Gramig
- Raymond Florax
- Tom Hertel
- Juan Sesmero
- Gerald Shively

**Community & Economic Development**
- Janet Ayres
- Larry DeBoer
- Raymond Florax
- Joan Fulton
- Maria Marshall
- Kevin McNamara
- Brigitte Waldorf

**Computer Decision Aids**
- Craig Dobbins (Financial Management, FINPACK)
- Joan Fulton (Grain Marketing)
- Gerald Harrison (Financial Management & Taxes)
- Alan Miller (Computerized Accounting)
- George Patrick (Financial Management & Taxes)
- Paul Preckel (Optimization)

**Farm Estate Planning & Transfer**
- Gerald Harrison
- Alan Miller
- George Patrick (Taxes)

**Agricultural Finance**
- Timothy Baker
- Freddie Barnard
- Michael Boehlje
- Craig Dobbins
- Brent Gloy
- Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer
- Alan Miller
- George Patrick
- Holly Wang

**Industrial & Food Policy**
- Joseph Balagtas
- Michael Boehlje
- Otto Doering
- Allan Gray
- Thomas Hertel
- Roman Keeney
- Marshall Martin
- Gerald Shively
- Wallace Tyner
- Steven Wu

**Farm Labor Management**
- Craig Dobbins
- Gerald Harrison (Insurance, Employment Taxes and Compensation)

**Farm Leases & Business Arrangements**
- Craig Dobbins
- Gerald Harrison (Legal Aspects and Taxes)
- Alan Miller
- George Patrick (Taxes)

**Farm Legal Affairs**
- Gerald Harrison
### Farm Planning & Organization
Freddie Barnard  
Michael Boehlje  
Craig Dobbins  
Brent Gloy  
Gerald Harrison  
Christopher Hurt  
Roman Keeney  
Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer  
Alan Miller  
Nicole Olynk  
George Patrick

### Land Prices, Sales and Cash Rent
Craig Dobbins  
Gerald Harrison  
Alan Miller

### Land Use
Janet Ayres  
Larry DeBoer  
Gerald Harrison  
Nelson Villoria

### Leadership
Janet Ayres

### Livestock Management & Marketing
Kenneth Foster  
Christopher Hurt  
Nicole Olynk

### Markets & Price Analysis
Corinne Alexander  
Joseph Balagtas  
James Binkley  
James Eales  
Joan Fulton  
Gerald Shively  
Holly Wang

### Natural Resources
(see Resources)

### Operational Research
Paul Preckel

### Policy
(see Public/Farm Industrial & Food)

### Consumer Marketing & Food Demand
James Binkley  
Jennifer Dennis

### Land Use
Janet Ayres  
Larry DeBoer  
Gerald Harrison  
Nelson Villoria

### Leadership
Janet Ayres

### Livestock Management & Marketing
Kenneth Foster  
Christopher Hurt  
Nicole Olynk

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Joseph Balagtas  
James Binkley  
James Eales  
Joan Fulton  
Gerald Shively  
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James Binkley  
James Eales  
Joan Fulton  
Gerald Shively  
Holly Wang

### Natural Resources
(see Resources)

### Operational Research
Paul Preckel

### Policy
(see Public/Farm Industrial & Food)

### Consumer Marketing & Food Demand
James Binkley  
Jennifer Dennis
Grain Marketing
Corinne Alexander
Christopher Hurt

Horticulture
Jennifer Dennis

International Agriculture & Development
Philip Abbott
Otto Doering
Joan Fulton
Thomas Hertel
Jess Lowenberg-Deboer
Marshall Martin
Kevin McNamara
Philip Paarlberg
Jake Ricker-Gilbert
John Sanders
Gerald Shively
Wallace Tyner
Nelson Villoria
Holly Wang

Public Policy, State & Local Government and Regional Economic Analysis
Janet Ayres
Larry DeBoer
Otto Doering
Raymond Florax
Kevin McNamara
Paul Preckel
Brigitte Waldorf
Steven Wu

Resource Economics
Otto Doering
Raymond Florax
Benjamin Gramig
John Lee
Juan Sesmero
Gerald Shively
Wallace Tyner

Rural Sociology
Janet Ayres

Spatial Economics
Raymond Florax

Taxes
(See Federal/Farm)
U.S. Economy
Larry DeBoer
Otto Doering
James Eales
Wallace Tyner

Production Economics
Tim Baker
Michael Boehlje
Kenneth Foster
Roman Keeney
John Lee
Nicole Olynk
Jess Lowenberg-Deboer
### Appendix C Learning Outcomes Assessment Rubrics

#### Department of Agricultural Economics Rubric for Evaluating M.S. Oral Defense

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### OVERALL Assessment

Specific comments:

Completed by: ____________________________ Date: __________
# Department of Agricultural Economics Rubric for Evaluating M.S. Written Thesis

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Evidence that the work adheres to ethical standards and was conducted in responsible manner

OVERALL Assessment

Specific comments:

Completed by: ___________________________  Date: _______________
# Department of Agricultural Economics Rubric for Evaluating Ph.D. Oral Prospectus

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Specific comments:

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### Department of Agricultural Economics Rubric for Evaluating Ph.D. Oral Defense

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Department of Agricultural Economics Rubric for Evaluating Ph.D. Written Dissertation

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Appendix D

Graduate Council Document 90-D
Statement of Principle
Work Loads of Students With Graduate Staff Appointments

The practice of employing graduate assistants and instructors is vital to the operation of Purdue, as it is to all large research universities. A good assistantship program benefits everyone. Students receive needed stipends, tuition remissions, and valuable experience in research and teaching. The University is able to conduct classes and to staff research groups at levels that would otherwise not be possible.

For an assistantship program to be successful, certain goals and safeguards need to be kept in mind. Whenever possible, duty assignments should stimulate the intellect and enhance the professional knowledge and skill of the assistant. But in all instances, the duties of the assistant must be fairly and equitably assigned, and the demands placed upon the assistant must not be unreasonable. The Graduate School claims neither the mandate nor the wisdom to direct the day to day interaction of professors and their assistants. However, we do seek to discover a rational frame of reference within which the wide variety of policies and practices may be calibrated and justified.

The generally accepted measure for setting graduate assistant assigned work loads is time. Purdue, like many other major research universities, assumes that a half-time appointment entails 20 hours of service per week. If an assistant's duties are independent of the student's course work and research, the definition of the half-time work load is relatively straightforward: not more than 20 hours per week. Of course some flexibility is necessary, both because one individual may work faster or more efficiently than another and because the pressure of work to be done ebbs and flows across the semester. "Over-working" an individual whose assistantship tasks are distinct from his or her student tasks and thesis research has a double consequence. Not only is the assistant being required to work without pay, the student is being deprived of time that might be spent in study and research.

When there is not clear distinction between the duties required by the assistantship and a student's own study and research - when all or most of the assistant's tasks contribute directly toward the student's degree - judgments as to the reasonableness of a work load can be very difficult. Under such circumstances, it would be foolish to encourage a student to think that a total of 20 hours of work per week would be likely to bring about the desired work product and to advance his or her intellectual and technical progress at an acceptable rate. The very fact that individual cases differ makes it especially important for those who supervise graduate assistants to discuss work obligations with their students, early and often.

One final word. The supervisor is often the assistant's employer, counselor, adviser, mentor, examiner, and referee. No other academic situation places such power in the hands of the professor nor requires a more thoughtful assumption of responsibility for the well-being of the student. The supervisor needs to be especially aware of the assistant's health and sanity, of the dangers inherent in extended periods of high stress, and of the reasonable claims family, friends, and society have on the time and energy of the assistant.

Departments are urged to establish a formal mechanism by which students who feel they are being treated unfairly may receive counseling, guidance, and redress.

Endorsed by the Graduate Council 11/15/90
Appendix E

Graduate Council Document 91-B

Graduate School Guidelines/Administrative Procedures
for Handling of Incidents Involving Harassment

The dean and faculty of the Graduate School support all University efforts to protect its faculty, staff, and students from harassment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, or other protected status. Cases involving alleged harassment will be handled through established University procedures. In any cases in which the faculty member has been found responsible for harassment, the procedure below will be followed at the dean's discretion.

The dean shall appoint a committee consisting of members of the Graduate Council. The dean has the option to include a faculty representative from the department involved. Any other person particularly knowledgeable about the case may be asked to contribute information to the committee. The committee shall be charged with the following responsibilities:

1. The committee will evaluate the Graduate School certification status of the faculty member. The committee may recommend that certification be downgraded to any level. (If implemented, the downgrade may be reviewed at a future time if a review is requested by the department head.)

2. The committee also will consider the impact of the incident on all graduate students under the direction of the faculty member. The committee may make specific recommendations.

The committee should meet and produce a report in a timely manner. Their recommendations are to be delivered directly to the dean of the Graduate School.

(Approved by the Graduate Council 4/18/91)