

LSU Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Graduate Program admissions Requirements
M.S. and Ph.D. Programs in Agricultural Economics

The Department welcomes and supports all applicants, domestic and international, to our M.S. and Ph.D. programs. LSU assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status. Admission to graduate study is a two-fold process. The Graduate School's Admissions office determines eligibility for admission to LSU. The department determines admissibility to AgEcon M.S. and Ph.D. degree program. Final admission to the university is subject to approval by the Graduate School. The LSU Graduate School manages the admissions process, and a non-refundable application fee must accompany the online application. Applications for fall semester admission should be completed before the department's January 25 priority deadline. Submission of required material by the priority date helps ensure full consideration for scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships. Applications for fall admission received after the priority date will still be reviewed for admission, but funding may not be available. The department may consider applications for the spring or summer admission on a case-by-case basis.

All applications must be made through the LSU Graduate School, and the online application process can be found on their website.

To be considered for admission, the LSU Graduate School requires applicants to submit the following to their online admissions portal: (1) transcripts indicating a bachelor's degree (or equivalent) or an advanced degree from an accredited college or university by the expected date of entry into the degree program; (2) a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last 60 hours of the previous undergraduate or graduate program; and (3) a current resume/CV with a complete and accurate chronological outline of all previous college-level education.

International Students

The AgEcon Department, the LSU Graduate School, and the LSU International Services Office provide support for all our international applicants. In addition to admissions requirements above, international applicants may need to satisfy 'degree equivalency' and 'English Language Proficiency' requirements set by the Graduate School. LSU's International Services Office supports international applicants with documentation and advice needed to obtain international student status (including acceptable "proof of funding" criteria, if necessary).

Departmental Admission

To determine admissibility to the graduate program (M.S. or Ph.D.), the department requires that students meet the minimum admission requirements of the LSU Graduate School as outlined above. In addition, students must have an adequate background in economics, statistics, and mathematics. Adequate background is typically defined to include courses in macro and micro economic theory, statistics, and calculus. Students applying for the M.S. Agribusiness area of study should have background in marketing, management, finance, and accounting. Students applying for admission to the Ph.D. program should have completed an M.S. degree and be prepared to take on the LSU Department of Economics advanced microeconomic theory sequence.

The departmental graduate committee reviews all complete applications for consideration for admission and funding. In addition to the Graduate School and departmental requirements above, complete applications must include (1) GRE General Test scores (required for all applicants, domestic and international); (2) three letters of recommendation; (3) a personal statement describing the applicant's background and interest in the degree program. Applicants that do not meet the Graduate School's minimum GPA (3.0) requirement may be admissible to the department on a probationary status if the department deems the other admissibility criteria (GRE scores, reference letters, etc) to be sufficiently strong.