Program Requirements

Full-time students should expect to take at least two years to complete the master’s program once they have completed any deficiency coursework.

Each sequence has a thesis and non-thesis option. Required core courses for the degree program are: AGR 403, 445, and 497. All master’s degree programs require a minimum of 50 percent of the non-thesis credit hours applied to the degree to be 400-level courses or above.

Agribusiness Sequence:
This 37-hour sequence requires:
- 7 hour required core: AGR 403, 445, and 497
- 6 hours: MBA 430 and MBA 421;
- 3 hours of business courses selected from MBA 411, 412, 416, 427, 440, 450; MKT 431-
- 9 hours of advanced agribusiness courses selected from AGR 418, 420, 422 or 424
- Plus Option 1 or 2
- Students who completed a limited number of business courses as undergraduates may be required to take some or all of the following Pre-MBA courses in accounting, statistics, economics, management, marketing, finance, and business law. Foundation courses cannot be presented for use in the Agriculture degree program.

Students with non-business undergraduate degrees may have to complete Pre-MBA Program courses before enrolling in MBA core courses. The responsibility for demonstrating prior academic coverage of the material at the appropriate level rests with the student, and should be completed at least one month prior to the beginning of the first semester of course work. Proficiency exams are available for the Pre-MBA Program courses. A person may take each proficiency exam only once.

Option I—Thesis:
- the degree requirements listed above
- 6 hours of Master’s Thesis (AGR 499)
- 6 hours of electives

Option II—Non-thesis:
- the degree requirements listed above
- a synthesizing experience consisting of three hours of Independent Study (AGR 400) under the direction of a major advisor and with the approval of an advisory committee.
- 9 hours of electives
- pass a comprehensive written/oral examination

Elective Courses: The following Department of Agriculture courses are acceptable to satisfy the elective courses requirement of the Agribusiness Sequence: AGR 304, 305, 306, 312, 313, 314, 315, 317, 318, 319, 324, 325, 352, 353, 355, 357, 363, 372, 375, 380, 381, 383, 386, 400, 418, 420, 422, 424, 492 or coursework of interest from pertinent departments approved by the student’s committee.

Additional 300-level graduate electives may come from the Departments of Accounting; Finance, Insurance and Law; Management and Quantitative Methods; and Marketing. (Agribusiness students may earn no more than 12 credits from 400-level courses in the College of Business.) 300- and 400-level graduate electives may come from the Department of Economics (excluding ECO 401).

Agriscience Sequence:
This 36-hour sequence requires:
- 7 hour required core: AGR 403, 445, and 497
- 3 hours: BSC 490
- plus Option I or II

Option I—Thesis:
- the degree requirements listed above
- 6 hours of Master’s Thesis (AGR 499)
- 20 hours of electives selected from the list below

Option II—Non-thesis:
- the degree requirements listed above
- a synthesizing experience consisting of three hours of Independent Study (AGR 400) under the direction of a major advisor and with the approval of an advisory committee
- 23 hours of electives selected from the list below
- pass a comprehensive written/oral examination

Elective courses: the following courses are acceptable to satisfy the elective courses requirement of the Agriscience Sequence: AGR 304, 305, 306, 317, 352, 353, 355, 356, 357, 363, 372, 375, 380, 381, 492; BSC 301, 321, 335, 336, 415, 425; CHE 344, 444; GEO 303, 304, 305, 360, 380, 386 or coursework
of interest from pertinent departments approved by the student’s committee.

**Concentrations:** Students selecting the Agriscience Sequence may elect an Animal Science, Agronomy, or Horticulture concentration. Students may choose courses from the following lists for each concentration.

- **Animal Science:** AGR 317, 363, 372, 375, 380, 381, 386, 492; BSC 321, 416; CHE 344, 444; FCS 332.
- **Horticulture:** AGR 352, 353, 355, 356, 357, 358, 363, 492; BSC 301, 335, 336.

**Agricultural Education and Leadership Sequence:**
Students who completed a limited number of Agricultural Education or education courses as undergraduates may be required to take undergraduate foundation courses as a prerequisite. Foundation courses cannot be presented for use in the Agricultural Education and Leadership degree program.

This 36-hour sequence requires:
- 7 hour required core: AGR 403, 445, and 497
- 14 hours of agriculture electives
- 9 hours from Teaching and Learning, Technology, or other coursework identified by the students’ graduate committee as relevant to the area of interest
- plus Option I or II

**Option I—Thesis:**
- the degree requirements listed above
- 6 hours of Master’s Thesis (AGR 499)

**Option II—Non-thesis:**
- the degree requirements listed above
- a synthesizing experience consisting of three hours of Independent Study (AGR 400) under the direction of a major advisor and with the approval of an advisory committee.
- 3 hours of electives from the list below
- pass a comprehensive written/oral examination

**Elective Courses:** The following Department of Agriculture courses are acceptable to satisfy the elective courses requirements of this sequence: AGR 304, 305, 306, 312, 313, 314, 315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 340, 352, 353, 355, 356, 357, 363, 372, 375, 380, 381, 383, 418, 420, 422, 424, 492. Additional graduate electives may come from Teaching and Learning (TCH 401, 402, 407, 409, 411, 430, 432, 450, 453, 473, 478) and/or Technology (TEC 310, 406, 407, 408, 423, 424, 425, 430, 431, 432) or coursework of interest from pertinent departments approved by the student’s committee.

**Agriculture Courses:** coursefinder.illinoisstate.edu/directory/agr/
**All Courses:** coursefinder.illinoisstate.edu/directory/