MASTERS OF SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

This page details the requirements for a Master’s of Science degree in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at Colorado State University for any student entering Fall 2013 or later.

Credit Requirements

- Total credits required are:
  - Plan A – 30 credits including a thesis (maximum of 6 credits for thesis).
  - Plan B – 30 credits including a technical paper.
- A Minimum of:
  - 24 credits must be earned at Colorado State University.
  - 21 credits must be earned after admission to the Agricultural and Resource Economics Graduate Program.
  - 16 Credits must be in 500-level or above courses.
  - At least 12 credits must be from formal AREC or ECON courses (i.e., not independent studies or research).
- No student-option pass-fail grading is permitted in the program of study (i.e., GS Form 6).
- Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA or above to remain in good academic standing.

Required Courses

Core Courses:
- AREC 506: Applied Microeconomic Theory
- AREC 535: Applied Econometrics

Methods Courses (Choose one course):
- AREC 615: Optimization Methods for Applied Economics
  - OR
  - AREC/ECON 635: Econometric Theory I

Field Courses (Choose one field, two courses)

Agricultural Economics
- AREC 605: Agricultural Production and Cost Analysis
  - AND
  - AREC 610: Agricultural Marketing and Demand Analysis
  - OR
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

- AREC/ECON 540: Economics of Natural Resources
- AND
- AREC/ECON 541: Environmental Economics

Elective Courses

Masters students will take additional courses to complete their program. Specific course electives beyond the requirements will be selected and agreed upon by the student and the student’s advisory committee in consideration of the student’s background and objectives. Such courses can be from DARE or other departments and can include 300 and 400 level courses.

Courses Not Counted

- The following courses are considered prerequisite to the M.S. and should be completed before starting your program at CSU. These courses may not be counted as part of the student’s program of study (i.e., GS Form 6):
  - AREC 335: Introduction to Econometrics
  - ECON 304: Intermediate Macroeconomics
  - ECON 306: Intermediate Microeconomics
  - STAT 301: Introduction to Statistical Methods
  - STAT 304: Multiple Regression Analysis
  - All 100 and 200 level courses and all Continuing Education courses

- All background courses required by the department must be taken with traditional grading, even though they may not count towards the student’s formal program of study.

Proposed exceptions to these policies described above must be submitted in writing to the Graduate Curriculum Committee for consideration, usually via the student’s academic advisor.

Thesis (Plan A)

A Master’s thesis in DARE is an independent, original piece of research prepared by the student addressing a particular topic of interest related to Agricultural and Resource Economics, and submitted to the Graduate School in support of the candidate’s petition for the degree. The thesis should contribute to scholarly knowledge. In practice, it is a written formal document that usually reports the results of a research project, often testing theoretical hypotheses with empirical data. A student may use a maximum of six credits of the variable credit AREC 699 – Thesis towards their
degree. A student seeking a Plan A degree must pass a final examination (also known as a thesis defense).

**Technical Paper (Plan B)**

A technical paper in DARE is typically the application of empirical methods to a particular problem of interest within the Agricultural and Resource Economics field. It is a research paper, but may not contribute to scholarly knowledge to the degree of a formal thesis. A student cannot use AREC 699 – Thesis towards their degree. A student seeking a Plan B degree must pass a final examination (also known as a technical paper defense).