College of Agriculture
Agricultural Economics

Overview
Agriculture is easily one of the most wide-reaching industries that touches our lives every day, whether through the food we eat or the natural resources that support our way of life. Being a driving force behind the operations that support and sustain this vital industry is an important task, and the agricultural economics program prepares you to take your place in the industry as you examine the economic principles that guide the behavior of individuals, businesses and government, and define today’s global economy through the lens of the most relevant issues and opportunities in modern agriculture.

Professional options
Careers
Agricultural economics students graduate from Kansas State University with the skills and experiences employers desire. Along with above-average starting salaries, our graduates have a wide variety of career fields to choose from. Some examples:
- Agricultural law
- Business consulting
- Commodity brokerage/trading
- Economic analysis
- Entrepreneurship
- Farming and ranching
- Finance and insurance
- Government service
- Management
- Natural resources
- Veterinary medicine

Points of pride
Kansas State University’s Student Governing Association has greatly benefited from the contributions of agricultural economics students, with 15 of our students serving as president and two serving as vice president during the past 30 years.

Job experience
Our students gain the experience and skills employers want through their academic endeavors, extracurricular activities and internship opportunities.

The K-State Career Center annually surveys recent graduates to determine employment rates. Recently, the College of Agriculture, which houses the Department of Agricultural Economics, reported that 97 percent of responding graduates had either found employment or were enrolled in graduate/professional school to further their education.

Academics
Degree options
The agricultural economics program is your starting point on a path to a number of different careers, which is why we’ve designed our major to be flexible while giving you the best grasp on emerging issues facing professionals across agriculture.

Specialty
This option allows you to uniquely create a degree suited to your interests. Students have combined agricultural economics with political science, nutrition, journalism, accounting, grain science, animal sciences, agronomy, Spanish and more. Additionally, the following pre-built custom specialties are available:
- Natural resources
- For students who want to focus on the economic issues surrounding our natural resources, this option is a good match. The conservation of the environment is an increasingly important area that individuals, businesses and government entities want to understand and utilize. Courses in this 15 credit hours secondary major include resource management and conservation.
- Pre-veterinary
- Veterinary schools are increasingly selective of the students they admit. This option gives students a strong foundation in both the science requirements of vet school, as well as the business skills needed to be a doctor, manager or consultant in a veterinary practice.

Pre-law
Law school admission committees look for breadth and depth in the curriculum of potential law students, and they value the diversity found in the agricultural economics major. Students in this option work with an advisor in agricultural economics and pre-law to make sure they gain the experiences necessary to enter and succeed in law school.

Farm management
This is a great opportunity for students who desire to apply management principles to a farm, ranch or commercial feedlot. Courses in this option focus on agricultural economics, livestock and crop production, and agricultural technology.

Quantitative
Students with an interest in math and statistics, as well as agricultural economics, excel in this option. With these advanced skills, you will be well prepared for graduate- or doctoral-level studies or for work as an economic analyst or consultant.

Minors
The department also offers minors in agribusiness and agricultural economics. Visit ageconomics.k-state.edu for more information.

Faculty
In the Department of Agricultural Economics, 100 percent of our faculty members have earned their doctorate in agricultural economics or a related field. This ensures that our programs are being developed and facilitated by the best and brightest.

Advising
Our faculty members are committed to providing a top-notch advising experience, which is why all teaching faculty members are undergraduate advisors who guide student academics and assist with career planning.

Transferring
If you plan to transfer into our program, we recommend that you download our 2+2 Program brochure, which serves as a guide for transferring from a community college into our program at K-State. You can find this on our website at ageconomics.k-state.edu or by contacting the department.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics
Activities

Clubs
Extracurricular activities not only support a well-rounded university experience, but are an excellent way to strengthen professional and interpersonal skills that will prove vital throughout your career. One way to get involved is through student clubs and organizations.

K-State offers more than 475 clubs and organizations, including:

- The Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Club develops professional and networking skills through national competitions, trips and biweekly meetings.
- The National Agri-Marketing Association Club works with professionals around the Midwest to develop student marketing skills. K-State is the only school to win back-to-back first-place titles in national competitions.

Study abroad
There's no doubt agribusiness and agricultural economics are global. Therefore, we encourage our students to experience different cultures, languages and industry by studying abroad.

Our faculty have spanned the globe, taking groups of students to places like South America, Australia, China, South Africa, New Zealand, Central America, Ireland and Europe. Study abroad can last anywhere from one week to one year.

Admissions

Requirements
Students can declare their major in agricultural economics immediately upon being admitted to the university. No additional steps are required. For university admission requirements, visit k-state.edu/admissions.

Application
Ready to take the next step toward pursuing your degree? Apply for admission to K-State at k-state.edu/admissions/apply.

Financial assistance
The agricultural economics department provides more than $220,000 in scholarships each year. Complete the K-State scholarship application to be considered for department scholarship.

Suggested coursework
The agricultural economics major is a 127 credit hour program. Choose among a number of courses as you work with your advisor to select your electives and overall course of study. Please visit courses.k-state.edu for a complete listing of courses offered within the agricultural economics department, and explore the various course categories required for graduation below.

General foundation courses (46 credit hours)
General foundation courses explore the areas of communication, quantitative basics, natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities, contributing toward a well-rounded educational experience.

Agricultural economics foundation courses (21 credit hours)
The agricultural economics foundation courses explore economic theory, decision-making and finance while sharpening your analytical skills and preparing you to apply these principles in your advanced coursework. An introductory orientation class for all incoming freshmen is required to ensure our students connect with each other and our faculty immediately upon starting their classes at K-State.

Agricultural economics field courses (6-21 credit hours)
The field coursework allows you to directly apply economic theory into action while exploring the many unique areas of the industry.

Courses include:
- Agricultural Policy/Law
- Agricultural Trade and International Development
- Commodity Trading
- Farm/Ranch Management
- Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
- Price Analysis
- Risk Management

Agriculture courses (6-15 credit hours)
As you work with your advisor, you will be able to select coursework throughout the College of Agriculture to complement your interests in the industry. The college features coursework in agronomy, agriculture technology management, animal sciences, grain science, food science, horticulture and more.

Degree option courses (15-30 credit hours)
As outlined above, you have your choice of a self-determined specialty option (including natural resources, pre-law and pre-veterinary options), farm management option or quantitative option for your major, each with its own unique set of courses, providing you the flexibility to combine your interests. Please visit ageconomics.k-state.edu for more information.

For more information about the agricultural economics program, contact:

Cherie Hodgson
Academic Program Coordinator
Department of Agricultural Economics
Kansas State University
343 Waters Hall
1603 Old Claflin Place
Manhattan, KS 66506-4003
785-532-4559
chodgson@k-state.edu
ageconomics.k-state.edu

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:
Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Drive North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/admissions