

Agribusiness & Applied Economics

Agribusiness includes firms that produce, process, distribute, and sell food, fiber, and other bio-based products derived from agricultural products. The major in agribusiness and applied economics integrates business and economic principles to prepare graduates to manage, market, and finance agribusiness firms in domestic and international markets and to manage the appropriate use of natural resources.

Students majoring in agribusiness and applied economics will be able to do the following:

- Understand and apply business and economic principles to issues confronting domestic and international agribusiness
- Make well-reasoned business and economic decisions, which reflect private business, public welfare, and ethical concerns
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- Provide leadership in solving economic and agribusiness problems

Pursuing Agribusiness & Applied Economics at Ohio State

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the preparatory program, performance in that program and performance on the ACT or SAT.

Students may declare a major in agribusiness and applied economics any time after admission to Ohio State. No conditions exist for admission to the major except eligible academic standing at Ohio State. An overall average grade of C or better is required for graduation.

Experienced faculty members teach the courses in the major. In recent years, faculty members have won 35 teaching awards and written 60 books and multiple scientific research articles. The faculty is also diverse with two-thirds having international agricultural experience. Each student enrolled in the major is assigned a faculty advisor.

Agribusiness & Applied Economics Requirements

As a student in agribusiness and applied economics, you will take 61 to 65 quarter credit hours of required and elective courses.

- Required classes:
 - Managerial Economics
 - Price Analysis
 - Principles of Agribusiness Finance
 - Principles of Agribusiness Management
 - Principles of Agribusiness Marketing
 - Public Policy Analysis
 - Production Decision Analysis
 - Strategic Management

- Elective classes:

- Agricultural Cooperatives
- Agricultural Law
- Dairy Marketing
- Economic Development in Developing Countries
- Environment and Natural Resource Economics
- Farm Business Management
- Fruit & Vegetable Marketing
- Grain Marketing
- Human Resource Management in Small Businesses
- Livestock Marketing
- Sales

A minor study area outside of the major is required. The minor consists of an additional 20 to 25 credit hours selected from more than 80 available university-wide.

Elective courses comprise the remaining hours needed to complete the 183 credit hours needed for graduation.

More About Agribusiness and Applied Economics

Each year, approximately \$45,000 in department scholarships are awarded to agribusiness and applied economics majors. More than 25 scholarships are given based mainly on academic achievement, activities, leadership, and a personal interview with donors.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

The Agribusiness Club meets bi-monthly and has guest speakers from various agribusinesses who tell students about internships and job opportunities. The Agribusiness Marketing Team participates in a national competition every year. They develop a complete marketing strategy for a product and present it to a panel of judges.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Incoming first year students in the top ten percent of their high school graduating class with an ACT composite of 30 or higher or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math scores of 1340 or higher are offered admission to the University Honors program.

The honors program is designed to challenge superior ability students. It is based on the concepts of flexibility in course selection, accelerated or advanced classes, and an honors research or scholarly project. Course flexibility enables the honors student to achieve breadth and depth in the academic program and to define academic growth in a more personal way. Honors program students are given priority scheduling.

For more information, check these web sites:

College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences:

cfaes.osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Agricultural, Environmental, & Development Economics:

aede.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Consult the departmental web site, aede.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Agriculture Survey	1
Principles of Food and Resource Economics	5
Data Analysis	5
Mathematical Analysis for Business I and II	8
Introduction to Rural Sociology or Introduction to Sociology	5
Principles of Macroeconomics	5
GEC (biological science)	5
GEC (first year writing course)	5
GEC (visual and performing art)	5
Total hours	44

Sophomore Year:

Introduction to Accounting I or Managerial Records and Analysis	5
Principles of Agribusiness Management	5
Principles of Agribusiness Marketing	5
Principles of Agribusiness Finance	5
GEC (history)	5
GEC (science sequence)	5
GEC (physical or biological science)	5
GEC (second writing course)	5
Minor course	3
Free elective	3
Total hours	46

Junior Year:

Oral Expression in Agriculture	5
Principles of Agribusiness Finance	5
Managerial Economics	5
Production Decision Analysis	5
Major elective	3–5
GEC (social science)	5
GEC (physical science)	5
Minor courses (3)	15
Total hours	48–50

Senior Year:

Economics of Public Policy Analysis	5
Strategic Management	5
Major electives	8
Internship paper	3
GEC (literature)	5
GEC (contemporary issues)	5
Minor course	5
Free electives (2)	8
Total hours	44

Students completing honors courses have these designated on their transcripts with an "H" before the course, and those who complete the honors program satisfactorily, meeting all requirements, will graduate "with distinction" in their area of specialization. Enrolled students may also apply to the Honors program by submitting an Individualized Honors Curriculum after earning at least a 3.5 CPHR on 30 hours at Ohio State. Student must also maintain at least a 3.5 CPHR to remain in honors.

Career Prospects in Agribusiness & Applied Economics

More than 95 percent of all graduates find employment outside of production agriculture in the private and public sectors.

The agribusiness and applied economics program prepares students for careers in the following areas:

- Management
 - Corporate/Cooperative Executive
 - Regional Sales Manager
 - Retail or Wholesale Manager
 - Farm Manager/Operator
 - Small Business Owner
- Finance
 - Financial Analyst
 - Futures Broker
 - Loan Officer
- Marketing and Sales
 - Sales Representative
 - Commodity Merchandiser
 - International Trade Specialist
- Resource Economics and Management
 - Natural Resource Economist
 - Natural Resource Manager
- Public Service and Policy
 - Public Policy Analyst
 - Political Lobbyist
 - Local Government
 - County 4-H or Extension Agent

The college operates a placement office to assist students in finding internships and full-time employment.

Salaries for agribusiness and applied economics graduates range from \$24,000 to \$45,000 with an average of approximately \$38,000. Salaries depend on a candidate's skills, previous work experience, and other factors determined by various employers.

Revised November 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the agribusiness and applied economics program, please visit aede.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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