Master of Science in Agriculture

West Texas A&M University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, is centered in the midst of diverse agricultural opportunities. We serve the nation’s largest cattle-feeding region and utilize the excellent agronomic conditions for the production of wheat, corn, sorghum, cotton, soybeans, peanuts, and vegetable crops. Other areas supporting the Department of Agricultural Sciences include the Dryland Agriculture Institute, the Beef Carcass Research Center, the Equine Industry and Business Program, and the Feedlot Research Group.

The Department of Agricultural Sciences provides the graduate academic program for the Cooperative Research Education and Extension Team (CREET). Team members include the Texas A&M University System AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Amarillo; USDA-ARS in Bushland; and Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in Amarillo. Students have the opportunity to interact with more than seventy (70) scientists and engineers through these agencies. The Department of Agricultural Sciences has close working relationships with Texas Cattle Feeders Association, American Quarter Horse Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, and Texas Wheat Producers Association, National Sorghum Producers and Texas Corn Producers Association. The department is a member of the Consortium for Cattle Feeding and Environmental Sciences.

The Master of Science degree programs in the Department of Agricultural Sciences are designed to prepare graduates with knowledge of agricultural principles to be used to think critically and solve problems. Students not only have the opportunity to receive training from internationally renowned scientists on the WTAMU faculty but also with researchers from Texas A&M AgriLife, USDA-ARS, and other research agencies. The new Agriculture Science Complex includes state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, pavilion, arena, USDA-inspected meat laboratory complete with harvest, fabrication, processed and ready-to-eat meats, sensory lab and retail sales (opens Summer 2018). The department also has a 2,500 acre Nance Ranch, 1,000-head feedyard with feedmill, horse center and greenhouse complex to support teaching and research.

The department has a limited number of research assistantships and scholarships available on a competitive basis. Students interested in a research assistantship are strongly encouraged to visit campus and meet with the faculty. Non-thesis students are eligible for scholarships, but not research assistantships.

Program Overview

- Students will choose one (1) of three (3) concentrations:
  - M.S. in Agriculture with emphasis in:
    - Agricultural Business & Economics
    - Agricultural Education
    - Agricultural Media & Communication
  - Students may opt for the thesis or non-thesis option:
    - Thesis option: For students who want research experience and/or want to obtain a Ph.D. degree after completing M.S.
    - Non-thesis option: For students who do not want research experience; a terminal degree for most Ph.D. degree programs

Course Overview

- Thesis Option:
  - Complete a minimum of thirty (30) graduate semester credit hours
- Non-thesis option:
  - Complete a minimum of thirty-six (36) graduate semester credit hours

Degree Benefits

- Students completing the program requirements will be able to demonstrate:
  - Advanced technical knowledge of agricultural principles to be used to think critically and solve problems
  - Ability to effectively communicate technical information and explain complex agricultural issues by writing scientific publications and delivering verbal presentations and/or lectures
Professionalism, leadership, and ethics related to agricultural sciences

Employment opportunities: Students who have graduated with a M.S. degree currently hold positions in agricultural firms or associations, the Extension Service, community colleges, or go on to obtain a Ph.D. in one of the various agricultural disciplines

Admission Criteria and Application Guidelines

Full Admission
- Must have a bachelor’s degree in an agricultural or closely related discipline from an accredited institution
- Must have a master’s committee chair to supervise coursework and thesis research projects
- GPA of > 3.0 from bachelor’s degree or > 3.0 on last sixty (60) hours
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- The Department of Agricultural Sciences has a secondary application process (“Application for Graduate Studies”) that will be sent to the student once they have applied to the University, sent official transcripts, and it has been determined that the student meets the minimum GPA requirements.
- The “Application for Graduate Studies” includes:
  - Reference forms to be completed by three (3) individuals knowledgeable about the applicant
  - Essay questions to be completed by the applicant
  - An updated vita or resume
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required

International Admission
- Additional requirements for International students include:
  - Official transcripts, mark sheets, graduation certificates, etc., with certified English translations from all colleges and universities attended
  - Submit Foreign Credential Evaluation of foreign transcripts and documents
  - TOEFL (> 79 iBT) or IELTS (> 6.0) or PTE (> 53) score

Note: Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission or research assistantships.

Conditional Admission
Any applicant who does not meet the above requirements will be reviewed for conditional admission by program faculty.

Application Deadlines
- July 1 for fall admission (June 1 for International Students)
- November 1 for spring admission
- April 1 for summer admission *

* International Student applications are not accepted for summer admission.

Program Contact Information
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