

Master of Science in Agriculture Concentrations in Agricultural Business and Economics; Agriculture; Animal Science; or Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences

Who takes this program?

- Students with a bachelor's degree in an agriculture discipline.
- Students desiring to be leaders in the agricultural industry and desire further education in one of the concentrations in agriculture.
- Individuals with a D.V.M. degree or other agriculture-related professional degree may also be admitted on a case-by-case basis.

How does the program work?

- Choose one of the four concentrations.
- Choose between a "thesis" or "non-thesis" option.
 - Thesis option — complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours.
 - Non-thesis option — complete a minimum of 36 semester credit hours.

How will this degree benefit me?

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 in chosen concentration.
- 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.

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

What courses will I take?

Thesis option

- At least 18 credit hours of 6000-level and above courses.
- At least 18 credit hours of courses offered in the Department of Agricultural Sciences.
- At least one credit hour of graduate seminar.
- Six credit hours of statistics.
- Six credit hours of thesis.
- No more than four credit hours from individual study courses.
- Successful completion of thesis and comprehensive exam.

Non-thesis option

- At least 18 credit hours of 6000-level and above courses.
- At least 18 credit hours of courses offered in the Department of Agricultural Sciences.
- One credit hour of graduate seminar.
- Three credit hours of statistics.
- Six credit hours in a supplementary area (outside of Department of Agricultural Sciences).
- No more than six credit hours from individual study courses.
- Successful completion of comprehensive exam.

What sets this program apart from other programs?

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 Program, and the Feedlot Research Group.

The M.S. program in Agriculture is 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 The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), and other research agencies. In addition to state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, the department has the 2,500-acre Nance Ranch, a 600-head feedyard with feedmill, horse center, Federally inspected meat science laboratory, and greenhouse complex to support research.

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 at Amarillo; USDA-ARS at Bushland; and Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at Amarillo. Students have the opportunity to interact with more than 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 Pork Producers Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, and Texas Wheat Producers Association, among others. The department is a member of the Consortium for Cattle Feeding and Environmental Sciences.

The department has a limited number of research assistantships (\$16,000 per year) and scholarships available on a competitive basis.

Admission Criteria and Application Guidelines

Full Admission

- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- Minimum 3.0 GPA in last 60 hours or 2.75 GPA overall for undergraduate degree.
- Minimum 3.0 GPA for research assistantships.
- Completion of Department of Agricultural Sciences "Application for Graduate Studies."

Conditional Admission

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

Deadline to Apply

- Fall admission: August 1
- Spring admission: December 1
- Summer admission: May 1

For further information, contact:

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