

Graduate Handbook

Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



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Graduate Studies in Agricultural Economics

Introduction

The Department of Agricultural Economics offers a number of degree opportunities, both within the agricultural economics discipline as well as in a number of interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary areas. Some of the latter are offered jointly with other units on campus. The department plays contributing roles in still others.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Science (M.S.) are the two agricultural economics discipline programs offered directly in the department. Thesis and non-thesis options for the M.S. are available with [thesis options I and III](#). An accelerated B.S./M.S. program is also available.

The department also offers a Joint Agricultural Economics and Statistics Ph.D., and an M.S. with a Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science, and an M.S. with a Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics.

Department faculty also collaborate with, and teach courses in a number of other interdisciplinary graduate programs on campus, including the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA) Community Development program offered through the Master of Agriculture degree. For this program see <http://online.unl.edu/nebraska/gpidea.aspx>. Another program with this interdisciplinary character is the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Specialization within the M.S. and Ph.D. programs of the School of Natural Resources. For this program see <http://snr.unl.edu/gradstudent/special/human/>. Another interdisciplinary program is Water Resource Planning and Management. Graduate students in the M.S. and Ph.D. programs of the department also have the opportunity to take courses, and otherwise interact with students and faculty in these interdisciplinary programs.

The following rules and procedures reflect department and Office of Graduate Studies policies and every effort will be made to keep them current. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* (<http://bulletin.unl.edu>), and the Graduate Studies requirements and procedures (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current>).

Aside from department and Graduate Studies requirements, the structuring and supervision of each student's academic and research programs are the primary responsibility of the student, the advisor and the supervisory committee. Students are expected to work closely with their advisor and supervisory committee, particularly in the conduct of research.

Admissions Requirements

We seek students of high ability and commitment from a diverse array of cultural and academic backgrounds.

Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics

In order to be admitted to the M.S. program in Agricultural Economics, students must have completed the following courses or their equivalents:

- Economics Courses: intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics
- Quantitative Courses: introduction to statistics, introductory integral and differential calculus

Applicants must submit transcripts, a statement of purpose, resume, and three letters of recommendation.

The GRE exam is preferred. In the past five years most candidates admitted to our graduate program have submitted their GRE score. Institution code for UNL is 6877.

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a university at which English is the official language of instruction. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at:

<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/international/english>

To be fully considered for financial assistance, all application materials should be submitted by January 15th.

Master of Science with Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science

Students admitted for graduate study leading to the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science must have completed the following courses or their equivalents:

- Economics Courses: intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics
- Quantitative Courses: introduction to statistics, introductory integral and differential calculus

Strongly recommended: Three semesters of biological sciences, three semesters of chemistry, including organic chemistry

Prospective students for the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science must submit transcripts, a letter of intent regarding educational and career goals, letters of recommendation, and GRE scores.

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a university at which English is the official language of instruction. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at:

<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/international/english>

Master of Science with Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics

Students admitted for graduate study leading to the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics must have completed the following courses or their equivalents:

- At least one course in statistics
- Introductory integral and differential calculus
- Matrix algebra
- Intermediate macroeconomics
- Intermediate microeconomics

Students must have attained a 3.00 GPA or better in the above courses

Prospective students for the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics must submit transcripts, a statement of purpose, resume, and three letters of recommendation GRE scores.

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a university at which English is the official language of instruction. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/international/english>

Accelerated Master's Degree

The program offers an opportunity to complete both an undergraduate degree in agribusiness, agricultural economics, or natural resources and environmental economics and a graduate degree in agricultural economics in five years. Up to 12 hours of credit will count towards both the B.S. and M.S. degree.

The admissions requirements are:

- GPA: 3.0 cumulative, plus a 3.5 average in MATH 104/106, ECON 311, ECON 312, and STAT 218
- Admission decision will be based on academic performance, letters of reference, and letter of application.
- Students are encouraged to apply to the program during the second semester of their junior year.
- Admission to the graduate program remains conditional until the student completes the baccalaureate degree.
- Students who earn a 3.0 average in AECN 815, AECN 873, and AECN 821 will be automatically admitted to the graduate program if they fulfill Graduate Studies' requirements for admission.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics

The Ph.D. program is open to students with a master's degree and a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. Students without a master's degree will also be considered but they must have completed or complete after admission the equivalent of the core requirements for the master's degree in agricultural economics

Prerequisite coursework includes:

- Economics Courses – M.S.-level microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics.
- Quantitative Courses - Integral and Differential Calculus, Linear Algebra, Statistics.

Field courses in areas of interest are desirable although not required. These include industrial organization, international trade, environmental economics, and development economics

The GRE exam is preferred. In the past five years most candidates admitted to our graduate program have submitted their GRE score. Institution code for UNL is 6877.

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a university at which English is the official language of instruction. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at:
<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/international/english>

To be fully considered for financial assistance, all application materials should be submitted by January 15th.

Joint Agricultural Economics and Statistics Ph.D.

A student may apply to the joint program as a new student or as a current student from one of the individual programs. Admission must be approved by the graduate chairs from both departments. Students entering the joint program are expected to meet the admission requirements for the Agricultural Economics Ph.D. program and the Statistics Ph.D. program. Students without these requirements can be provisionally accepted into the joint Ph.D. program but must remove any deficiencies within the first year. This provisional status will be removed when all provisions are satisfied.

Degree Requirements

Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural Economics

The M.S. in Agricultural Economics can be either thesis (option I) or non-thesis option (option III). The thesis option requires 30 hours of graduate credit including the thesis, while the non-thesis option requires 36 hours of graduate credit. Additional detail is found in the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin>).

Core courses

The following courses or their equivalents are required of all M.S. students:

- AECN 821 - Orientation to Research in Agricultural Economics (1 semester hour)
- ECON 815 - Analytical Methods in Economics and Business
- AECN/ECON 873 - Microeconomic Models and Applications (3 semester hours)
- AECN 896-003 - Applied Econometrics (4 semester hours)

Option I requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, including 20 to 24 credit hours of regular coursework. A thesis, equivalent to 6 to 10 credit hours is required. At least half of the required work, including thesis, must be in one major subject. Eight credit hours, excluding thesis credit hours, must be in graduate-only courses. Thesis credit will be granted only on a Pass/No Pass basis. Pass/No Pass should be selected when students register for thesis credit.

Option III requires a minimum of 36 credit hours. No thesis is required and no minor is available. At least 18 credit hours must be in graduate-only courses.

Forms

The following forms with associated deadlines are required for candidacy and completion of a master's degree. They can be accessed at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/masters>.

1. Memorandum of Courses

The memorandum of courses should be filed by the student prior to completion of half of the program. This is the first Graduate Studies form that identifies the student's advisor and program. It is available at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Masters-Memorandum.pdf>. Following the removal of deficiencies and the filing of the memorandum of courses, an M. S. student is admitted to candidacy.

2. Application for Degree

Applications instruction can be found here: <http://registrar.unl.edu/graduation-application>. The completed application and payment should be filed with Graduation Services before the deadline date for the expected graduation term (usually the end of the second week of that term).

3. Application for Final Oral Examination

The Final Examination Report Form should be submitted to Graduate Studies at least four weeks prior to the proposed date of the oral exam or by the date specified on the calendar of deadlines. This form requests approval to hold the exam on a specific date and identifies the members of the examining committee. Download the form at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Masters-FinalExam.pdf>.

4. Final Steps

Upon receipt of the Application for Final Oral Exam, final instructions will be provided to the student by Graduate Studies. To ensure that these final steps go smoothly, instructions at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/masters> should be read with care.

M.S. Supervisory Committee

A supervisory committee for M.S. students is optional. If chosen, the committee consists of three graduate faculty members. The committee approves and oversees the student's program and conducts the final exam. A form for establishing the committee is included at the end of this handbook. If a committee is not elected, the student's major advisor, identified in the memorandum of courses, approves and oversees the student's program and thesis. In this case a final exam committee of three graduate faculty is proposed later when the final exam report form is submitted.

M.S. Thesis

A master's thesis and abstract in preliminary form must be approved by the adviser prior to applying for the final oral examination, at least four weeks prior to the final oral examination date (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/masters#thesis>).

M.S. Final Oral Examination

A student whose program includes a minor in another department may be required to take a comprehensive examination in his/her minor field. Comprehensive examinations in a minor field may be waived subject to the approval of both the major and minor departments providing all grades in the minor are "B" or higher. Each student should arrange with his/her advisor and/or supervisory committee for taking minor comprehensive exams or for having them waived. The minor department determines the nature of comprehensive exams, if any are required.

A final oral examination is required by the Department, and is administered by the examining committee. (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin/masters/exams>)

Time Limits

The work required for a master's degree must be completed within 10 consecutive years. Course work exceeding 10 years will not apply toward the partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for master's degrees at UNL.

Master of Science with Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science

The student must meet at least the minimum requirements for agricultural economics and animal science. This includes credit from graduate coursework and thesis of not fewer than 15 credit hours in each discipline. The thesis is expected to be 6 to 10 credit hours divided between the two majors. For each of the majors, students must earn at least 8 credit hours in courses open only to graduate students (800-level without 400-level counterparts, or 900-level courses).

Core courses

The following courses or their equivalents are required of all students in the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science:

Agricultural Economics:

- AECN 821 - Orientation to Research in Agricultural Economics
- AECN 873 - Microeconomic Models with Applications
- AECN 896-003 - Applied Econometrics

Animal Science:

- ASCI 806 - Animal Science Graduate Seminar

Students must pass a written comprehensive exam.

Students must complete a research thesis (only Option 1 is available to double M.S. major in Agricultural Economics and Animal Science). Additionally, students are required to maintain satisfactory progress towards their degree by maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA.

M.S. Supervisory Committee

Students must assemble a committee of two faculty members from the Agricultural Economics department and two faculty members from the Animal Science department. The committee is to be co-chaired by a faculty member from each department.

Memorandum of Courses

The student's committee, comprising two faculty members from the Agricultural Economics department and two faculty members from the Animal Science department, must approve the Memorandum of Courses. The Memorandum of Courses should be filed by the student prior to completion of half of the program.

Master of Science with Double Major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics

Student must meet at least the minimum requirements for agricultural economics and statistics. This includes graduate work of no fewer than 18 to 24 credit hours in each of the two disciplines, including a thesis equivalent to 6 to 10 credit hours divided equally between the two majors. For each of the majors, students must take at least 8 credits in courses open only to graduate students (800-level or 900-level courses).

Core courses

The following courses or their equivalents are required of all students in the M.S. with double major in Agricultural Economics and Statistics:

Agricultural Economics:

- AECN 821 - Orientation to Research in Agricultural Economics
- AECN 873 - Microeconomic models with applications
- AECN 896-003 - Applied Econometrics
- AECN 896-003 can be replaced by the more advanced ECON 957 (Econometrics I).

Statistics: (Students must receive grades of B or higher)

- STAT 882, 883 - Mathematical Statistics I, II
- STAT 810 - Alpha Seminar
- STAT 850 - Computing Tools for Statisticians
- STAT 825 - Principles of Statistical Consulting
- STAT 821,822,823 - Statistical Methods I-III

Students must obtain proficiency in a statistics computing language, which will be determined by the student's M.S. committee.

Students must pass a written comprehensive exam. Additionally, students are required to maintain satisfactory progress towards their degree by maintaining at least a 3.00 GPA.

Students must attend departmental seminars in both Agricultural Economics and Statistics departments and participate in a mentoring program.

M.S. Supervisory Committee

Two mentors (temporary advisors) will be assigned to students before they choose permanent advisors. The mentors and students are expected to work together in developing the student's program for the first two semesters.

The student must assemble a committee of two faculty members from the Agricultural Economics department and two faculty members from the Statistics department. The committee is to be co-chaired by a faculty member from each department. The committee must approve the program of study.

Accelerated Master’s Degree Program

Students must have completed MATH 104/106, ECON 311, ECON 312, and STAT 218 before taking graduate courses.

The following schedule allows them to continue to receiving federal financial aid. Students are required to take at least six hours of undergraduate credit to receive federal financial aid. A total of 12 credit hours are required to maintain fulltime status.

During the fall semester of their senior year, students will take AECN 815, AECN 873, and AECN 821 for a total of five graduate credit hours. Students will also take an additional seven undergraduate credit hours. Spring semester coursework include ECON 417 and an additional graduate elective course, plus six undergraduate credit hours. The following fall, students will take AECN 896 (Applied Econometrics).

If federal financial aid is not a consideration, students are encouraged to take AECN 815, AECN 873, AECN 821, and AECN 896 (Applied Econometrics) during the fall semester of their senior year for a total of nine graduate credit hours. Students would then take one graduate elective during the spring semester.

An illustration of program duration and timetable is as follows:

Freshman 30 Credits	Sophomore 30 Credits	Junior 30 Credits	Senior 30 Credits	Graduate 30 Credits
Undergraduate hours required = 120 (includes 12 hours of graduate credit)				
			Graduate hours required = 30 (12 as an undergrad + 18 as a grad)	
		Recommended application time	May apply	Graduate Studies transfers 12 credits to apply to the graduate degree

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics

Core Courses

The Ph.D. program approved by the student's supervisory committee must include the following core courses or their equivalents:

- STAT 882 - Mathematical Statics I-Distribution Theory
- ECON 917, 918, and 919 - Econometrics I, II & III
- ECON 912A and 912B - Advanced Microeconomics I & II
- ECON 911A and 911B - Advanced Macroeconomics I & II
- Two courses from the AECN 901 block (6 credit hours)
- Two courses from the AECN 902 block (6 credit hours)
- Any M.S. core course not previously taken

In addition to the core requirements, Ph.D. students are expected to

- prepare a department or a conference presentation (or paper) before the fourth year begins.
- have a paper submitted to a peer-reviewed journal before graduating.

A minimum of 90 semester hours of graduate credit, including the dissertation, is required. Not fewer than 45 semester hours must be completed at the University of Nebraska.

Dissertation credit will be granted only on a Pass/No Pass basis. Students registering for dissertation credit should register for the credit hours as Pass/No Pass.

Students should study the Graduate Studies Bulletin <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin> and be familiar with procedures and deadlines described at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/doctoral>.

Forms

The following forms with associated deadlines are required for candidacy and completion of a doctoral degree. They can be accessed at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/doctoral>.

1. Appointment of the Supervisory Committee

A student must first select a supervisory committee chair, then identify members of the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee must consist of at least four graduate faculty members, including and NU graduate faculty member from outside the department. The relevant form, <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Doctoral-SupCommittee.pdf>, must be submitted with a minimum of 45 hours of credit remaining to be taken.

2. Program of Studies

At its initial meeting, the supervisory committee approves the student's program of studies and the general area of research for the dissertation. The program of studies form <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Doctoral-Program.pdf> must be completed and submitted to Graduate Studies within the same semester that the supervisory committee is approved.

3. Application for Admission to Candidacy

Once the student has completed a substantial number of the credits on his or her program of studies and passed the written comprehensive exams are passed, the student is eligible to apply for doctoral candidacy using this form: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Doctoral-Candidacy.pdf>.

The form must be filed at least seven months prior to the student's final oral examination. Once candidacy is achieved, registration for at least one credit hour is required each academic semester (Fall and Spring) until the student graduates. This requirement stands even if all credit hours, including dissertation, have already been taken. *Failure to register will result in a termination of the program of study.*

4. Application for Degree

Applications instruction can be found here: <http://registrar.unl.edu/graduation-application>. The completed application and payment should be filed with Graduation Services before the deadline date for the expected graduation term (usually the end of the second week of that term).

5. Application for Final Oral Examination

Once the dissertation is written, approved by the student's committee chair and the two designated readers, the student is eligible to apply for the final oral examination. The form, <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/Doctoral-FinalOral.pdf>, must be filed at least **three weeks** prior to the scheduled final oral exam (dissertation defense). This form is used by the examination committee to report the results of the exam.

6. Final Steps

Upon receipt of the application for final oral exam, final instructions will be provided to the student by Graduate Studies. To ensure that these final steps go smoothly, instructions at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees#doctoral> should be read with care.

Qualifying Examinations

The Ph.D. qualifying examination shall consist of two exams: 1) a microeconomic theory exam based on the content of ECON 912A and ECON 912B, and 2) an economic analysis and application exam designed to test students' ability to use economic theory to analyze important agri-food system issues.

The microeconomic theory exam will be administered jointly by the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Economics twice each year (August and January). Once students have completed the two microeconomic theory courses, they should take the exam the next time it is offered, usually in August. If a second attempt is necessary, it must take place when the next microeconomic theory exam is offered, usually in January.

The economic analysis and application exam should be taken by students after their program of studies has been substantially completed, normally following the fourth semester in the Ph.D. program. The exam will be administered by the Department of Agricultural Economics in June. If a second attempt is necessary, a retake exam will be offered by early August, and before the fall semester begins. The economic analysis and application exam may also be used as a Departmental written comprehensive exam, at the discretion of the student's supervisory committee. The economic analysis and application exam may also be used as a Departmental written comprehensive exam, at the discretion of the student's supervisory committee. If an exam is not passed after two attempts, then the student cannot continue study for the Ph.D. degree. No additional exams are given. The inability, unwillingness or failure of a student to complete the examination at the appropriate times will be considered a lack of normal progress in pursuing the degree, and could result in termination from graduate study for the Ph.D. in agricultural economics.

Comprehensive Examination

Students must pass a written comprehensive examination after their program of studies has been substantially completed, as mandated by Graduate Studies (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin/doctoral/exams>). The examination is administered by the

student's supervisory committee and may include an oral exam at the discretion of the supervisory committee. If the student has a minor, the minor department normally administers a comprehensive exam in its field. The student's supervisory committee may elect the qualifying examinations as the written component of the student's comprehensive exam.

Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense)

The student's supervisory committee conducts the final oral examination, which normally consists of a dissertation defense. It is open to members of the university and the public, while at the end of the public hearing there will be a closed questioning portion of the exam

(<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin/doctoral>)

Joint Agricultural Economics and Statistics Ph.D.

Supervisory Committee

Equal numbers of faculty from each department must serve on the committee. This committee consists of two advisors and two readers, where each department needs to be represented by an advisor and a reader. A faculty member cannot serve as both an advisor and a reader. The committee composition needs to be approved by the graduate chairs from both departments.

Program of Studies

The following courses must be included on the Program of Studies:

- Statistics: All core courses from the M.S. in Statistics program; 15 additional credit hours of 900-level courses, excluding STAT 997 and STAT 999
- Agricultural Economics: ECON 957, 958, 959, 973, 974, and 983; two courses from the AECN 901 offerings and two courses from the AECN 902 offerings

Dissertation

The dissertation will be developed under the supervision of the advisors on a topic approved by the student's supervisory committee. Students are expected to make meaningful research contributions to both agricultural economics and statistics.

Examinations

Students need to pass the following exams:

- The Ph.D. Qualifying and Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams required for a Statistics-only major and for an Agricultural Economics-only major
- The final oral exam over the dissertation research

Progress Reports

All students are required to file yearly progress reports, normally at the end of the spring semester. These reports will include courses taken, grades received, a summary of research, teaching and extension activities, and a status report regarding whether or not various milestones have been achieved, such as: selection of major professor, appointment of supervisory committee, filing of memorandum of courses, qualifying exams completed, and comprehensive exams/admission to candidacy status. This information must be submitted by the student through their advisor, who is responsible for forwarding it to the graduate committee.

Assistantships

Graduate research assistantships (GRA) are awarded to full-time students, normally on an annual basis, either from departmental funds which include Agricultural Research Division (ARD) funds or funds obtained by individual faculty from grants or other sources. GRAs require students to work for a specified number of assistantship hours per week, and may or may not entail tuition remission.

All GRAs are assigned a research advisor by the graduate committee and department head. The research advisor assigns and supervises their research responsibilities, and may also advise on academic issues. Students may choose a major advisor or supervisory committee chair different from their current research advisor. GRAs report on their assistantship activities in their annual report to the graduate committee. Reports from those students receiving ARD funds are forwarded to the department head, who is responsible for monitoring the use of ARD resources.

Students interested in changing to a different advisor are encouraged to visit with the graduate committee chair. The committee graduate chair will work with each student and his/her advisors to implement the change, subject to the approval of the advisor to whom the student wishes to transfer.

Assistantship responsibilities may or may not relate directly to the desired topic of thesis or dissertation research. master's students are expected to choose a major advisor prior to or at the completion of half of the master's program and work closely with the major professor to prepare the thesis proposal. Ph.D. students are expected to choose a supervisory committee chair prior to or at the completion of more than half of the post-bachelor's program of study (including transfer credits) and work with the major professor to prepare the dissertation proposal.

Once a thesis or dissertation proposal is approved, assistantship efforts are typically credited for the thesis or dissertation research. Guidelines for graduate assistantships are updated by the Office of Graduate Studies annually. See current guidelines at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/funding>.

Evaluation, Reappointment, and Reassignment of GRAs

The graduate committee will consider reappointment of graduate assistants during spring semester, with results announced by the end of the semester. Reappointments will be based on the student's academic record, progress reports, and an evaluation of the research assistant by the research supervisor. M.S. students on ARD funds will automatically be considered for a renewal for a second and final year subject to funding and satisfactory performance. Ph.D. students on ARD funds will be considered for renewal up to a maximum of a fourth year, subject to funding and satisfactory performance. In principle, students on grant-funded GRAs will be eligible for ARD assistantships if they were recommended by the graduate committee for assistantships upon admission. Students on grant-funded GRAs will be eligible for ARD assistantships when grant funding expires. These students will be eligible for five years total of funding with the potential of one-year extension upon request of the student. Normally, renewal of grant-funded GRAs is at the discretion of the faculty member who obtained the grant.

Thesis and Dissertation Policies

Each student must provide a final copy of the thesis or dissertation to the Department (unbound) and another to the advisor. Two additional copies must be deposited in Love Library as prescribed in the *Graduate Bulletin* (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/bulletin>).

Agricultural Research Division funds are provided for the conduct of research on approved agricultural economics research projects. These funds can be used to defray expenses incurred in the planning, collection and analysis of data. Students are expected to type their own thesis and to pay the cost of making the necessary copies.

Leave

Military leave of up to two weeks per year with pay is granted. If the duration of the leave is more than two weeks, the additional leave is granted as leave without pay. The student is responsible for scheduling any make-up work with his/her advisor.

Students should inform their advisors in advance of their leave intentions. Their advisor must approve annual leave for students on assistantship in advance. Failure to do so may result in leave without pay.

Scholastic Guidelines

The department's graduate program is designed to help students to further their understanding about the science and philosophy of economics, as well as its practical applications. Students are expected to read widely in the scholarly literature, including journal articles, books and other related material, during the course of the program. Students are also expected to be good departmental citizens and actively participate in research seminars and related scholarly activities. The graduate program is largely about self-study on the part of each student, which is enabled by courses that also draw on this same scholarly literature. In terms of specific courses, the goal is to improve student understanding of the science behind each particular course, as reflected in materials referenced and otherwise made available to students during the course. One indicator of student progress in this quest is given by the grades earned in each course and the overall GPA maintained throughout the program.

The graduate committee will assess progress in annual reviews of grades and research accomplishment. Students are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 for all graduate courses taken. Even if the GPA is 3.0 or better, however, if grades of less than B are earned in core courses, the student is expected to study these materials on their own, and perhaps even go through such courses a second time, in order to develop the proficiency needed in these key areas.

All students will be placed on probation the first semester the overall GPA falls below 3.0. After a second consecutive semester with a GPA below 3.0, a student will generally be dismissed from the program after review by the Graduate Committee. The student who is on a GRA or other funding source will also generally lose financial support at this time. Any student who has been dropped from the program may apply to the graduate committee for reinstatement. Reinstatement requires evidence of potential for satisfactory performance. The recommendation of the student's advisor will be a major factor when considering reinstatement.

Department of Agricultural Economics
Appointment of Supervisory Committee for the MS Degree

Student Name _____

Supervisory Committee Members

Professor's Name

Campus Address and Zip

Outside Representative

Thesis Topic

Signature of thesis advisor(s)

Date