

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS

www.ace.uiuc.edu

To meet the needs of students interested in a business-related field, students majoring in Agricultural and Consumer Economics can select from concentrations in Agri-Accounting; Agri-Finance; Farm Management; Agribusiness Markets and Management; Financial Planning; Consumer Economics and Finance; Environmental Economics and Policy; Public Policy and Law; Individually Planned Curriculum; and Policy, International Trade, and Development. Students should select the program best suited to their personal and career interests.

Agri-Accounting Concentration

Students in Agri-Accounting complete a comprehensive program that enables them to apply accounting principles in production, processing, or retailing sectors in agribusiness industries. Graduates find professional opportunities as consultants, managerial accountants, and financial analysts.

Agri-Finance Concentration

Students in Agri-Finance study finance as it is used in agribusiness, farming, financial institutions, and, more broadly, the financial services industry. In addition to positions as loan officers in banks, recent graduates are working in trust and other banking operations, investments and securities firms, rural appraisals, financial management, financial planning, insurance, and real estate.

Farm Management Concentration

Students in Farm Management study the principles of economics, finance, risk, and the decision-making process—all central to the successful management of a farm enterprise. Students develop skills to combine and manage land, labor, and capital resources for a competitive return. Also, students may learn how to appraise farmland and other assets. Farm (and other asset) appraisal is a growing part of professional farm management and can be pursued as a profession in itself.

Agribusiness Markets and Management Concentration

Students in Agribusiness Markets and Management obtain management skills; expertise regarding strategy development and implementation; and an awareness of the interaction among agricultural technology, supply, distribution, processing, and marketing firms in the business environment. Graduates are prepared for entry-level management, sales and marketing, and technical analyst positions and are sought by firms involved in the production, marketing, sales, and financing of farm inputs, agricultural commodities, and food products.

Consumer Economics and Finance Concentration

Students in Consumer Economics and Finance develop knowledge and skills to help consumers with everyday problems. Course work in consumer economics, personal finance, and economics gives students a broad-based background and an understanding of the roles of consumers in the marketplace. Students can choose an emphasis in consumer economics, family economics, or financial planning and public agencies, marketing and sales firms, and financial institutions.

Environmental Economics and Policy Concentration

Students in Environmental and Natural Resource Management study environmental and resource management issues at the local, state, national, and international levels. Graduates are prepared for positions in government, environmental, and resource management agencies; interest groups; and the environmental area of private firms. Course concentrations include law, policy, management, administration, quantitative methods, and sociology, as well as economics.

Financial Planning Concentration

Students in Financial Planning study finance and economics as they apply to individuals, households, and small businesses in the course of accumulating and using financial resources. Students prepare for positions with banks, companies providing insurance and financial planning services, private or nonprofit financial advising and counseling services, credit assessment and management, and financial consulting.

Individually Planned Curriculum Concentration

Students in the Individually Planned Curriculum work with a faculty advisor to design a personal program of study. This concentration is a customized program of 20 hours in agricultural and consumer economics beyond the introductory courses.

Policy, International Trade, and Development Concentration

Students in Policy, International Trade, and Development enjoy a broad exposure to these topics from an economics perspective. The concentration provides a global and societal perspective ideally suited for exploring studies in administration, government, policy analysis, social processes, and international economics. Graduates are prepared for positions in firms with international business; in federal or state government agencies dealing with policy, trade, and development; in trade organizations; and in public interest groups.

Public Policy and Law Concentration

Students in Public Policy and Law become expert in the economics of public policy in general and in its application to specific areas of interest. This concentration will expose students to the legal and institutional structures in which policies are developed, the analysis of the economics impacts of policies, and special circumstances of public policy and law pertaining to the environment, consumers, the agricultural sector, international relations, and other.

MINOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND LAW

The minor in environmental economics and law is designed to provide students with economic and legal background to analyze problems in areas such as environmental quality, natural resource management, sustainability, and land-use planning. This minor is of use to students in economics, business, and planning who want to learn more about environmental issues in the context of familiar disciplinary frameworks. It is also of benefit to students in environmental and other physical sciences (such as engineering and chemistry) who can use economics and law to understand better the sources of environmental problems and the characteristics of various mechanisms for dealing with such problems.