

**Graduate Program Assessment Plan
Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics
2016**

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Conduct substantive independent research
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject content knowledge and research/critical inquiry methodology
3. Demonstrate effective written communication of substantive content
4. Demonstrate effective oral communication of substantive content
5. Be able to conduct scholarly or professional activities in an ethical manner

Student Performance: Data Sources

Data Source	Program Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
Masters coursework [ECNS 401, ECNS 501, ECNS 502, AGBE 467, ECNS 561, ECNS 562, ECNS 569]	X	X	X	X	X
Masters Core examination		X	X		
Masters' thesis	X	X	X		X
Thesis defense				X	X

Response Threshold

75 percent of admitted graduate students will successfully pass the Master's level coursework in the DAEE.

90 percent of students who take the Master's Core examination will successfully pass the examination after a maximum of two attempts.

90 percent of students who attempt the thesis defense will successfully pass their thesis defense on their first attempt.

Schedule of Assessment

Assessment reports for Masters and graduate certificate programs will be submitted in September of even-numbered years.

Process for Assessing the Data

The graduate coordinator will prepare lists of DAEE graduate students enrolled in Master's courses, taking the Master's core exam, and defending their theses each year. The coordinator will tabulate the data on coursework completion, results (pass or fail) of the Master's core exam, and tabulate the results (pass or fail) of thesis defenses for DAEE graduate students. The coordinator will write up a brief summary of the assessment results and this will be presented to the faculty members working with graduate students. The faculty will review the assessment results and make decisions about how to respond.

If the response thresholds listed in the plan have not been met, a faculty response will be required. The response will include a strategy for improving areas where the threshold has not been met. This may include gathering additional data over the next assessment period to verify or refute the result; changing something in the curriculum or program to try to improve performance; or changing the acceptable performance threshold.

An assessment report will be produced by September 15 of even-numbered years and will be delivered to the COA/CLS Deans offices and to the Provost's office. The report will include the following:

- 1) A list of DAEE graduate students taking the courses, Master's core exam, defending theses, and completing the program in the past two years.
- 2) The results of the Master's core examinations and defenses summarized into the numbers of passes and failures.
- 3) A statement on the assessment of the program indicating whether the program outcomes are being met, and identifying any program changes needed to meet the program learning outcomes.