Master of Science in Agricultural Education Graduate Handbook

The Master of Science in Agricultural Education

Course requirements for the Master's Degree: 30 units

This master's degree is offered entirely online and partners with the AG*IDEA consortium. Courses are offered from participating universities and instructors across the United States. However, students are enrolled as California State University, Chico students and receive grades and the degree from CSU, Chico.

Continuous enrollment is required. A maximum of 9 semester units of transfer and/or CSU, Chico Open University course work may be applied toward the degree.

Graduate Time Limit:

All requirements for the degree are to be completed within five years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course applied toward the degree. See "Graduate Education" in the University Catalog for complete details on general degree requirements.

The MS degree in Agricultural Education is available for advanced study in any aspect of agriculture, food or natural resources. Prospective students should discuss their interest and goals with the graduate coordinator in agricultural education.

1. Admissions requirements.

Admission criteria includes the following (as indicated by the Graduate and Postbaccalaureate Admission Requirements at CSU Chico):

1. Have completed a four-year college course of study and hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree in agriculture, food, or natural resources from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or shall have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. Be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended.
3. Have attained at least a 3.0 GPA (on a scale where A=4.0) in the last 30 semester (45 quarter) units attempted and at least 2.75 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted.

Criteria for student continuation in program includes the following:

1. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to continue in the degree program.
2. Students must complete the degree requirements within five years of the end of the semester of enrollment in the oldest course on the approved program.

Prerequisites for Admission to Conditionally Classified Status:

1. Satisfactory grade point average as specified in "Admission to Master's Degree Programs" in the University Catalog.
2. Approval by the College of Agriculture and the Office of Graduate Studies.
3. A baccalaureate in agriculture, food or natural resources from an accredited institution, or an equivalent approved by the Office of Graduate Studies. The prospective student must have sufficient background to undertake a graduate program in agricultural education.

Prerequisites for Admission to Classified Status:

In addition to any requirements listed above:

1. Formation of a graduate advisory committee.
2. Development of an approved program in consultation with the graduate coordinator in agricultural education.

Advancement to Candidacy:

In addition to any requirements listed above:

Students must have classified graduate standing and must have completed at least 9 units of the proposed program at the University.

Requirements for the MS in Agricultural Education:

Completion of all requirements as established by the graduate advisory committee or graduate coordinator in agricultural education, and the Office of Graduate Studies, to include:

1. Completion of an approved program consisting of 30 units of 400/500/600-level courses as follows:
    a. At least 12 units must be completed in Research Methodology in Agricultural Education (AGRI 600), Program Planning in Agricultural Education (AGRI 601), Instructional Methodology in Agricultural Education (AGRI 602), and Assessment in Agricultural Education (AGRI 610).
    b. At least 18 of the units required for the degree in 600-level courses.
    c. Not more than 9 semester units of transfer credit.
    d. Not more than 3 units of Independent Study (AGRI 697); not more than 3 units of Comprehensive Examination (AGRI 696); not more than 6 units of Master's Thesis (AGRI 699T) or Master's Project (AGRI 699P).
    e. Approval by the graduate coordinator in agricultural education and the Graduate Council on behalf of the faculty of the University.

2. Residency requirements, if applicable.

There are no residency requirements for the online degree program.

Program learning outcomes for the Master of Science in Agricultural Education include the following:

***Goals and Student Learning Outcomes*:**

The graduate degree will allow individuals to advance their knowledge of teaching and learning while providing personal growth and enhancing their ability to serve others in the agricultural field. Goals and student learning outcomes include the following:

1. ***Philosophy*:** Graduates will apply knowledge of philosophical and historical foundations of agricultural education to develop personal philosophy statements which guide components of agricultural education programs.
   a. Identify philosophical influences upon agricultural education
   b. Identify historical foundations to agricultural education.
   c. Identify components of successful agricultural education programs.
   d. Design personal philosophical statement.

2. ***Curriculum*:** Graduates will create relevant, challenging and integrative agricultural curriculum. Graduates will recognize and adapt curriculum to meet curricular goals and objectives using a variety of educational theories and models.
   a. Identify learning theories and models.
   b. Analyze learners to identify curricular needs.
   c. Apply agricultural education theory to design appropriate curriculum.

3. ***Instruction*:** Graduates will demonstrate effective teaching characteristics while utilizing a wide variety of teaching and learning strategies. Graduates will use appropriate practices to teach essential agricultural concepts, problem solving, skills of inquiry, communication and collaboration.
   a. Identify effective teaching theories and characteristics.
   b. Identify instruction needs for formal and non-formal educational environments.
   c. Apply characteristics of effective teaching to lesson facilitation.

4. ***Assessment*:** Graduates will develop, administer and analyze formal, informal and performance assessment techniques to monitor and evaluate student learning and guide modification
   a. Identify assessment components of learning theories.
   b. Apply knowledge of effective assessment theories to develop formal, informal and performance assessments.
   c. Analyze assessment data.
   d. Utilize assessment data to modify instruction.

5. ***Research*:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to collect, analyze and share data related to agriculture as informed consumers and producers of educational research.
   a. Describe research methodology.
   b. Apply research methodology to design a research study.
   c. Demonstrate effective application of research methodology through collecting and analyzing statistical data.

6. ***Cultural and Global Awareness***: Graduates will apply knowledge of diverse learners to create optimal learning environments.
   a. Identify characteristics of diverse learners.
   b. Identify educational needs of diverse learners.
   c. Apply knowledge of diverse learners to create optimal learning environments.

Graduate program requirements:

Course Requirements for the MS in Agricultural Education:

12 units required from the following:

AGED 600	Research Methodology in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGED 601	Program Planning in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGED 602	Instructional Methodology in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGED 610	Assessment in Agricultural Education	3 units

3-6 units required from the following:

AGED 699T	Master's Thesis	6 units
OR		
AGED 699P	Master's Project	6 units
OR		
AGED 696	Comprehensive Examination	3 units

13-15 units selected from the following:

AGED 603	Agricultural Leadership, Supervision &	3 Units

	Administration	
AGED 604	Program Evaluation in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGED 605	Adult Learners in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGED 606	Instructional Technologies for Agricultural Educators	3 Units
AGED 607	Agricultural Education Foundations, History and Philosophy	3 Units
AGED 608	Teaching Diverse Learners in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGED 609	Occupational Experience in Agriculture	3 Units
AGED 697	Independent Study in Agricultural Education	1-3 Units

1. ***Thesis Plan*:** Upon agreement by the student's graduate advisory committee, an acceptable thesis composed of original research shall be submitted as the culminating activity.

    a. Thesis proposal: A formal thesis proposal must be submitted and approved by the graduate advisory committee before students may begin research. The proposal must meet the criteria established by the graduate committee, including format, documentation, and quality of writing. The thesis proposal includes the following: literature review; problem and purpose or hypothesis of the research; research design; and research methodology.

    b. Registration in AGRI 699T, Master's Thesis.
    c. Approval of thesis: Members of the graduate advisory committee shall approve the thesis.
    d. Oral defense: Members of the graduate advisory committee shall conduct an oral defense of the thesis. The oral defense is generally limited to content within the scope of the thesis.

2. ***Comprehensive Project Plan***: A creative component shall be completed upon the approval of the graduate advisory committee. The creative, comprehensive project will demonstrate applied research to solve a particular need or problem.

    a. Comprehensive Project: A formal plan for the creative component must be submitted and approved by the graduate advisory committee prior to the onset of the project. The formal proposal for the comprehensive project shall include the following: review of literature; identification of problem or definition of a particular need; methodology employed to address the problem or solve a particular need; and a timeline for project completion. The comprehensive project will be reviewed and shall be graded as credit/no credit.

    b. Registration in AGRI 699P, Master's Project

c. The graduate advisory committee shall review and approve the comprehensive project.

3. ***Comprehensive Examination Plan*:** The candidate shall complete a comprehensive exam upon approval by the student's graduate advisory committee.

a. Comprehensive Exam: A formal examination comprised of content across the student's course of study shall be prepared by the graduate advisory committee. The exam will include a six hour written comprehensive examination and a one hour oral review of the written exams.

b. Registration in AGRI 696, Comprehensive Examination

c. The graduate advisory committee shall prepare, administer, and evaluate the comprehensive examination. Each examination shall be graded as credit/no credit and each component of the comprehensive exam must receive a passing grade. Students may repeat each part of the examination once.

Graduate Grading Requirements:

All courses in the major (with the exception of Independent Study- AGRI 697, Comprehensive Examination – AGRI 696, Master's Project- AGRI 699P, and Master's Thesis- AGRI 699T) must be taken for a letter grade, except those courses specified by the department as ABC/No Credit (400/500-level course), AB/No Credit (600-level course), or Credit/No Credit grading only. A maximum of 10 units combined of ABC/No Credit, AB/No Credit, and Credit/No Credit grades may be used on the approved program (including 697, 696, 699P, 699T and courses outside the major). While grading standards are determined by individual program and instructors, it is also the policy of the University that unsatisfactory grades may be given when work fails to reflect achievement of the high standards, including high writing standards, expected of students pursuing graduate study.

Graduate Advising:

Students are encouraged to seek advising information from the graduate coordinator prior to enrolling in courses each semester. Students are assigned a graduate advisor from the Master of Science in Agricultural Education program director upon admittance into the program.

Master of Science in Agricultural Education
Degree Planning Worksheet

Advising Road Map: Students with 9 transfer units:

Summer, 2012		**Fall, 2012**		**Spring, 2013**	
AGED 608 (elective)	3	AGED 600 AGED 601	3 3	AGED 610	3
TOTAL	**3**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**3**
Summer, 2013		**Fall, 2013**		**Spring, 2014**	
AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ Elective	3	AGED 602	3	AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ AGED 696	3
TOTAL	**3**	**TOTAL**	**3**	**TOTAL**	**3**

Advising Road Map: Students with 9 transfer units NEEDING FINANCIAL AID:

Summer, 2012		**Fall, 2012**		**Spring, 2013**	
AGED 608 (elective)	3	AGED 600 AGED 601	3 3	AGED 610 AGED 602	3 3
TOTAL	**3**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**6**
Summer, 2013		**Fall, 2013**		**Spring, 2014**	
(1 time fee for continuation would apply)		AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ Elective AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ Elective	3 3		
TOTAL		**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	

Advising Road Map: Students without 9 transfer units:

Summer, 2012	**Fall, 2012**	**Spring, 2013**

AGED 608 (elective)	3	AGED 600 AGED 601	3 3	AGED 610 Elective	3 3
TOTAL	**3**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**6**
Summer, 2013		**Fall, 2013**		**Spring, 2014**	
AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ Elective	3	Elective AGED 602	3 3	AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ AGED 696	3
Elective	3				
TOTAL	**6**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**3**

Advising Road Map: Students without 9 transfer units NEEDING FINANCIAL AID:

Summer, 2012		**Fall, 2012**		**Spring, 2013**	
AGED 608 (elective)	3	AGED 600 AGED 601	3 3	AGED 610 Elective	3 3
TOTAL	**3**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**6**
Summer, 2013		**Fall, 2013**		**Spring, 2014**	
AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ Elective AGED 697 Special Problems	3 1	Elective AGED 602	3 3	AGED 699T/AGED 699P/ AGED 696 Elective	3 3
TOTAL	**4**	**TOTAL**	**6**	**TOTAL**	**6**

Degree Requirements

12 units required from the following:

AGRI 600	Research Methodology in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGRI 601	Program Planning in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGRI 602	Instructional Methodology in Agricultural Education	3 units
AGRI 610	Assessment in Agricultural Education	3 units

3-6 units required from the following:

AGRI 699T OR	Master's Thesis	6 units
AGRI 699P OR	Master's Project	6 units
AGRI 696	Comprehensive Examination	3 units

13-15 units selected from the following:

AGRI 603	Agricultural Leadership, Supervision & Administration	3 Units
AGRI 604	Program Evaluation in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGRI 605	Adult Learners in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGRI 606	Instructional Technologies for Agricultural Educators	3 Units
AGRI 607	Agricultural Education Foundations, History and Philosophy	3 Units
AGRI 608	Teaching Diverse Learners in Agricultural Education	3 Units
AGRI 609	Occupational Experience in Agriculture	3 Units
AGRI 697	Independent Study in Agricultural Education	1-3 Units

** Note: Additional electives will be added as we secure syllabi from other teaching institutions and process them through the CSU, Chico course approval process.

Course Descriptions

AGRI 600	Research Methodology in Agricultural	3.0 Fa

Introduction to Research in Agricultural Education. Application of behavioral research techniques in the human aspects of agriculture including proposal preparation, literature review, research design, data analysis and the dissemination of results.		
AGRI 601	Program Planning in Agricultural Education	3.0 Sp
Program Development in Agricultural and Extension Education. Consideration of the need for planning programs in education; objectives and evaluation of community programs; use of advisory group; organization and use of facilities.		
AGRI 602	Instructional Methodology in Agricultural Education	3.0 Fa
Advanced Methods of Teaching Agriculture. Application of theoretical models and research on effective teaching in secondary agricultural education program, teaching strategies, planning required, and instructional management for students with varying backgrounds. Evaluation of student learning and teacher evaluation of instruction. Theory and practice of effective teaching in agricultural and life sciences. Emphasis on course planning, teaching and learning styles, instructional techniques, laboratory instruction, text construction, student evaluation, instructional technology, and faculty roles and responsibilities.		
AGRI 603	Agricultural Leadership, Supervision & Administration	3.0 FS
Theory of motivation and behavior, leadership and management styles, change agents, and the adoption process will be explored. More specifically, students will study leadership theory including definitions of leadership, a history of modern leadership theory and current trends in leadership practice and research. Students will discuss models of leadership including contingency models, situational leadership and transformational leadership.		
AGRI 604	Program Evaluation in Agricultural Education	3.0 FS
Evaluation principles, models, and procedures used in developing and analyzing, agricultural, vocational, technical, and extension education programs; role of comprehensive evaluation in needs assessments, program planning, program implementation, and the marketing of outcomes to major stake-holders; designs for evaluating agricultural and extension programs. Evaluation logic model is presented to identify and describe program inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes.		
AGRI 605	Adult Learners in Agricultural Education	3.0 FS
Designed to meet needs of leaders in adult education. Opportunity to study some of basic problems and values in working with adult groups. Attention given to problem of fitting		

educational program for adults into public school program and other educational programs as well as to methods of teaching adults.		
AGRI 606	Instructional Technologies for Agricultural Educators	3.0 FS
Principles, theory and techniques of using information technologies to provide instruction to learners, both in person and at a distance, in formal and non formal educational settings.		
AGRI 607	Agricultural Education Foundations, History and Philosophy	3.0 FS
Development and organization of agricultural and extension education in America from colonial times to the present. Emphasis is placed on the role of societal and scientific changes, the federal government and philosophy on evolution of agricultural and extension education.		
AGRI 608	Teaching Diverse Learners in Agricultur	3.0 Sp
This course will engage students in a practical application of learning theories as they apply to diverse learners. This course will provide specific instruction relevant to secondary agricultural instructors such as Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects through the lens of diverse students, global leadership and intercultural competence. Students will identify strategies for recruitment and retention of non-traditional agriculture students and implement student engagement theories to encourage diverse student participation in all areas of successful agricultural programs.		
AGRI 609	Occupational Experience in Agriculture	3.0 FS
A major and critical element in all programs of vocational education is provision for appropriate student learning experiences in a real and simulated employment environment. Due to recent developments in education and agriculture, new and expanded concepts of occupational experience are devised. Current research substantiates need and desire of teachers of agriculture for assistance implementing new concepts. Also designed to develop depth of understanding of theoretical foundations which support new developments in occupational experiences and stimulate individual growth and creativity in implementing further developments.		
AGRI 610	Assessment in Agricultural Education	3.0 FS
This course is designed to develop an understanding and application of assessment relevant to agricultural education. Participants will develop, administer and analyze formal, informal and performance assessment techniques to monitor and evaluate student learning and guide modification.		

AGRI 696	Comprehensive Examination	3.0 Su
A formal examination comprised of content across the student's course of study shall be prepared by the graduate advisory committee. The exam will include a six hour written comprehensive examination and a one hour oral review of the written exams.		
AGRI 697	Independent Study	1.0-3.0 Inquire
This graduate course is an independent study of a graduate level topic or problem. Students must receive permission from the graduate coordinator and must work directly with a faculty member at CSU Chico or through the AG*IDEA consortium. Graduate students may take a maximum of 3 units of Independent Study.		
AGRI 699P	Master's Project	1.0-6.0 Su
A creative component may be selected upon the approval of the graduate advisory committee. The creative, comprehensive project will demonstrate applied research to solve a particular need or problem. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6 units.		
AGRI 699T	Master's Thesis	1.0-6.0 Su
Upon agreement by the student's graduate advisory committee, an acceptable thesis comprised of original research shall be submitted as the culminating activity The thesis proposal includes the following: literature review; problem and purpose or hypothesis of the research; research design; and research methodology. You must register directly with a supervising faculty member. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6 units.		