Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology (AECT)

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Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology Website (http://aeed.uark.edu/)

Degree Awarded:
Ph.D. in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences with Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology Concentration (AFLSPH-AECT)

Program Description: The Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology offers a concentration for the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. Faculty from across Bumpers College prepare students for the wider array of natural and social sciences while allowing the student to develop a tailored degree program through the Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology Concentration.

Requirements for Ph.D. in AFLS with Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology Concentration

Prerequisites to Degree Program: A Master of Science degree is desirable. A student with a Bachelor of Science and an exceptional record in academics and/or research may be approved for admission to the Ph.D. program in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences if the Graduate Student Concentration Admissions Committee deems them qualified and approval is granted by the AFLSPH Steering Committee. A student admitted to the University of Arkansas, pursuing an M.S. and in good academic standing may apply to be admitted to the doctoral program and forgo completing the M.S. degree if so approved by the AFLSPH Steering Committee and the AFLSPH Graduate Concentration Admissions Committee. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) on previous college-level course work is required.

Admission Requirements for Entry: To be considered for admission, a student must submit a letter of intent, along with the application for admission indicating the desired concentration, areas of interest and career goals. Official transcripts of all previous college-level course work must be submitted. Three letters of recommendation are required. These letters should address the character and academic capability of the applicant. Applications will first be reviewed by the AFLSPH Steering Committee which will assign the student to the appropriate Graduate Student Concentration Admissions Committee for review. The Concentration Admissions Committee will make the final determination of admittance into the AFLSPH program and the concentration.

Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy Degree: The Ph.D. program in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences requires a minimum of 72 credit hours after a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree or a minimum of 42 hours after a Master of Science or Master of Arts degree.

General course requirements for each degree candidate are arranged on an individual basis by the Faculty Adviser, the Graduate Advisory Committee and the candidate in accordance with guidelines of their concentration. Alternate courses may be selected at the discretion of the committee.

All students must complete 6 hours of elective course hours and 2 hours of seminar. One seminar must be a research proposal presentation and the other must be an exit seminar presenting the dissertation research results. All students must complete 18 hours of doctoral dissertation hours. Students entering the doctoral program with only a B.S. or B.A. must also complete an additional 30 hours (to reach the 72 hour post B.S./B.A. requirement). Students must satisfactorily pass written and oral candidacy examinations covering their discipline and supporting areas. These examinations must be completed at least one year before completion of the Ph.D. degree program in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences. Each candidate must complete a doctoral dissertation on an important research topic in the concentration field. The specific problem and subject of the dissertation is determined by the faculty adviser, the student and the Graduate Advisory Committee. A dissertation title must be submitted to the dean of the Graduate School at least one year before the dissertation defense. Provisional approval of the dissertation must be given by all members of the Graduate Advisory Committee prior to the dissertation defense. Students must pass the oral defense and examination of the dissertation given by the Graduate Advisory Committee. A student cannot be approved for conferral of the doctoral degree until after completion of all coursework, written and oral candidacy exams, the defense passed and dissertation accepted by the Graduate School and an application for the degree has been filed with the Registrar’s Office and the fee paid.

Additional Concentration Requirements
In addition to the general requirements for the Ph.D. program in Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, students in the Agricultural Education, Communication and Technology Concentration must also complete:

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<td>seminar</td>
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<td>credits related to research and teaching</td>
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<td>Graduate</td>
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<td>credits related to research and/or data analysis (qualitative and quantitative research methods)</td>
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Courses

AGED 5001. Seminar. 1 Hour.
Presentations and discussion of graduate student research as well as review of current literature and topics of current interest by students and faculty. All graduate students will make at least one formal presentation. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

AGED 5013. Advanced Methods in Agricultural Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Emphasis on shop organization and management, courses of study, unit shop instruction, and development of skills in agricultural mechanics. (Typically offered: Summer Odd Years)

AGED 5053. Philosophy of Agricultural and Extension Education. 3 Hours.
An examination and analysis of social and economic events leading to the establishment and maintenance of federal, state, county, and local agricultural education programs. Lecture 3 hours per week. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)

AGED 510V. Special Problems. 1-6 Hour.
Individual investigation of a special problem in agricultural education which is not available through regular courses. These will be directed by a member of the graduate faculty. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

AGED 5113. Undergraduate Researchers Improving Student Experiences. 3 Hours.
To engage students in the social sciences in action research that serves to solve a problem or answer a question within the student's academic field through scientific inquiry. All students will work with professionals, commonly outside of the university, within their discipline to conduct their action research in order to solve a problem experienced by that professional. Students may work in teams or individually to complete the overall purpose of the course. Prerequisite: AGED 5463 or HESC 5463 or other instructor approved Research Methods course. (Typically offered: Spring)

AGED 520V. Special Topics in Agricultural and Extension Education. 1-4 Hour.
Topics not covered in other courses or a more intensive study of specific topics in agriculture education. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for degree credit.

AGED 543. Principles of Technological Change. 3 Hours.
(Formerly AGED 4443.) This course introduces a structured approach for dealing with the organizational and human aspects of technology transition, including the key concepts of resistance and change management, organizational change, communications, and processes by which professional change agents influence the introduction, adoption, and diffusion of technological change. This course may be offered as a web-based course. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both AGED 4443 and AGED 543. (Typically offered: Fall Odd Years)

AGED 5463. Research Methodology in the Social Sciences. 3 Hours.
Logical structure and the method of science. Basic elements of research design; observation, measurement, analytic method, interpretation, verification, presentation of results. Applications to research in economic or sociological problems of agriculture and human environmental sciences. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall) This course is cross-listed with HESC 5463.

AGED 5473. Interpreting Social Data in Agriculture. 3 Hours.
The development of competencies in analyzing, interpreting and reporting the results of analyses of social science data in agriculturally related professions. Students will select appropriate analysis techniques and procedures for various problems, analyze data, and interpret and report the results of statistical analyses in narrative and tabular form. (Typically offered: Fall)

AGED 5483. Technical Communication in the Social Sciences. 3 Hours.
This course will provide students with the basic principles and techniques in communicating social science information relevant to human subject research in agriculture, natural resources, and life sciences to the general public. Communication processes covered in the course include audience identification, writing, editing, and production of social science-based materials for popular and refereed publications. Focus will also be placed on thesis preparation and writing and research manuscript development and dissemination of social science research. Web delivered course. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)

AGED 5493. Survey Design and Scale Development. 3 Hours.
This course is designed to provide the expertise required to design and conduct survey research. Students will understand the instruments (scales/questionnaire) used in data collection processes and acquire the statistical skills necessary to develop and test these survey instruments. This course uses both theory and practice. Hands-on training will be provided via SPSS package for data analyses, and Qualtrics will be used for web-based surveys. Prerequisite: 3 hours of graduate level statistics coursework and HESC 5463 or AGED 5463 or instructor consent. (Typically offered: Summer) This course is cross-listed with HESC 5053.

AGED 5563. Thesis Proposal Development. 3 Hours.
The purpose of this course is to assist graduate students in the preparation of their thesis research proposal. Students will produce the first three chapters of their thesis by the end of the course. Prerequisite: AGED 5463 or HESC 5463. (Typically offered: Fall)

AGED 5632. Teaching Diverse Populations in Agricultural and Extension Education. 2 Hours.
(Formerly AGED 4632.) This course is designed to provide pre-service teachers of agriculture with an understanding of teaching diverse populations as applied to problems of practice in agricultural and extension education. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both AGED 4632 and AGED 5632. (Typically offered: Spring)

AGED 575V. Internship in Agricultural Education. 1-6 Hour.
Scheduled practical field experiences under supervision of a professional practitioner in off-campus secondary school systems. Emphasis includes classroom preparation, teaching, and student evaluation. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)
AGED 5993. Global Horticulture and Human Nutrition to Enhance Community Resilience and Food Security. 3 Hours.
This course covers three broad areas (Global Horticulture, Sustainable International Development, Human Health and Nutrition) and experts on three campuses created the instruction. The course is intended to be multi-disciplinary, and students should use their contextual knowledge to add to weekly discussions. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Spring)
This course is cross-listed with FDSC 5993, HORT 5993.

AGED 600V. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Master's Thesis. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.