Departmental Faculty

D.C. Gerloff. Professor and Department Head. Farm and financial management.
S.H. Cho. Associate Professor. Natural resources and environmental economics.
C.D. Clark. Associate Professor. Environmental and resource economics and policy.
D.G. De La Torre Ugarte. Professor. Agricultural policy and development and macroeconomic modeling.
B.C. English. Professor. Bioenergy and resource economics, production economics and economic impact analysis.
M.M. Velandia. Associate Professor. Bioenergy and natural resource economics.
J.B. Riley. Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence. Commodity/resource management and environmental policy.
E.L. Rawls. Professor Emeritus. Livestock marketing.
D.E. Ray. Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence. Commodity/resource and trade policy and rural development.
R.K. Roberts. Professor and Director of Graduate Studies. Production economics and precision agriculture.
H.D. Schaffer. Research Assistant Professor. Social economics, farm and development policies.
M.M. Velandia. Assistant Professor. Farm management, production economics and sustainable agriculture.
M.D. Wilcox. Assistant Professor. Economic development, entrepreneurship and agricultural marketing.
S.T. Yen. Professor. Economics of food demand, nutrition and health and applied econometrics.
T.H. Yu. Assistant Professor. Biomass feedstock logistics and international trade and policy.

Application

Applicants must submit official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, general aptitude test scores from the GRE and the $60 application fee. Scores from the TOEFL or IELTS are required for non-native English speakers. Applicants must have either a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 out of 4.0, or a 3.0 during the senior year of undergraduate study. An applicant whose GPA falls between 2.5 and 3.0 may be admitted on probation. For specific details about the application process, contact the Graduate Admissions Office at (865) 974-3251 or http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/.

Cost of Study & Assistantships

The cost of study differs for in-state and out-of-state applicants. All students pay a maintenance fee, and other fees are applicable. Out-of-state candidates pay an additional tuition cost. For more information about current student fees, contact the Bursar’s Office at (865) 974-4495 or http://web.utk.edu/~bursar/.

The Department offers financial aid to graduate students on a competitive basis. The aid is in the form of a graduate research or teaching assistantship, and it includes payment of a monthly stipend, tuition and medical insurance. Assistantships are dependent on departmental funding, and M.S. thesis students are generally given priority over M.S. non-thesis students. For information about other possible sources of financial aid, contact the Financial Aid Office at (865) 974-3131 or http://finaid.utk.edu/.

Facilities

Graduate students on assistantship are provided office space in Morgan Hall where the Department’s faculty offices and classrooms are housed. Computers with Internet access, printers and research software are available for graduate student use. The Department employs a computer analyst to provide professional and timely service to faculty and graduate students involved in research and teaching.
The Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics focuses on the development of analytical skills used in identifying and solving problems of economic importance to agricultural and natural resource decision-making. Our graduate studies program promotes an environment of scholarship, intellectual inquiry, creativity and professional development.

**MS Programs**

We offer a Master of Science (MS) degree in Agricultural & Resource Economics with two concentrations.

**Agricultural Economics Concentration**

This concentration is designed to prepare students for analytical and research careers in the public and private sectors or for further study in a PhD program. The *thesis* option consists of a minimum of 36 hours of coursework in agricultural economics including a thesis. The *non-thesis* option consists of a minimum of 36 hours of coursework in agricultural economics, economics and/or statistics. Non-thesis students must also pass a comprehensive examination in the form of a written research report.

**Natural Resource Economics Concentration**

This concentration is targeted toward students wishing to enter careers in the public and private sectors of natural resource management or for further study in a PhD program. To provide students with natural resource economics skills, the program integrates coursework in agricultural and natural resource economics with courses from other disciplines; such as geography, political science, forestry, bio-systems engineering and sociology. Each student will complete a minimum of 36 hours of coursework including a thesis.

**Dual MS/MBA Program**

The Department, in partnership with the College of Business Administration, offers a dual degree program leading to the completion of both the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the Master of Science (MS) with a major in agricultural and resource economics. The program’s objective is to prepare graduates to take leading management roles within agribusiness firms in a rapidly changing and increasingly global agricultural sector. This program can be accomplished with approximately 20 fewer hours of coursework than would be required to earn both degrees separately, and can be completed within 21 months. The dual curriculum consists of 60 hours of coursework: 30 hours for the MBA and 30 for the MS. An internship report is required upon completion of a professional internship. Candidates of this program must satisfy the curriculum and graduation requirements of the agricultural and resource economics major and the College of Business Administration, respectively.

**PhD Program**

Students interested in pursuing doctoral studies may do so with a concentration in Natural Resource Economics within the inter-departmental Natural Resources PhD program. This unique program (which can also be found in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries) allows students to explore their interests in environmental economics and natural resource management while drawing heavily from courses in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics and the Department of Economics. With the guidance of a doctoral committee, PhD candidates will complete 72 hours of graduate coursework beyond the bachelor’s degree and a dissertation. Included within the required coursework are three hours of teaching practicum, two hours of doctoral seminar, one hour of research methodology and 24 hours of dissertation.

The Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville has a world-renowned reputation in the fields of agricultural economics, agricultural policy and natural resource economics, to name a few. Students in our graduate programs routinely present their research at professional meetings, publish research articles, participate in the analysis of agricultural and natural resource policies and conduct fieldwork on local farms.

In addition to providing a strong foundation in economic theory, our distinguished faculty guides students in research that will shape the future of agricultural and resource economics. Our graduates go on to pursue careers in academia and in all aspects of agribusiness; including marketing, product manufacturing, banking and finance and natural resource and farm management for government agencies, universities and a wide range of industries.

For more information, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies by telephone (865-974-3716) or email (robert3@utk.edu). To learn more about our current projects, students or faculty, visit our Department’s graduate program web site at [http://economics.ag.utk.edu/grad.html](http://economics.ag.utk.edu/grad.html).