

# AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

## Undergraduate Program Information

The Department of Agriculture Economics and Agricultural Business offers two Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degrees. A Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business (AEAB) and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Natural Resource Economics and Policy (NREP).

### *Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business - Bachelor of Science in Agriculture*

The AEAB degree prepares students for leadership positions with companies that operate in the food and fiber supply chain. Positions may focus on areas of agribusiness management, agricultural production, financing, marketing, and economics. Recent AEAB graduates have accepted positions with national and international companies, non-profits, and government agencies. Many graduates are also successful entrepreneurs.

In this program, faculty, students, and industry stakeholders work together to provide students with real-world examples and opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge through departmental course offerings. The curriculum is designed to educate students as business professionals with the necessary skills to succeed in professional positions. Depending on their interest, students can customize their path of study to include additional courses in marketing, finance, or natural resource management.

### *Natural Resource Economics and Policy - Bachelor of Science in Agriculture*

The Department of Agriculture Economics and Agricultural Business offers the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics and Policy (NREP); an undergraduate degree that trains students on the socio-economic and bio-physical aspects of environmental and natural resource management and policy. With increasing competition for limited land, water, and other natural resources in the U.S. and throughout the world, as well as growing concern about environmental degradation, there is a growing need for professionals who can assist in the process of balancing economic and environmental tradeoffs. The NREP major provides students with knowledge and skills to articulate and apply economic principles to a range of public and private sector issues such as land use, energy, wildlife, climate and air resources, and water. This major prepares students for private and public sector positions in resource assessment, management, or administration.

## Graduate Program Information

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business supports six graduate programs. Several of these programs are offered with cooperation from other departments on campus. The six programs supported by AEAB include:

- Masters of Science in Agricultural Economics;
- Masters of Agriculture with a concentration in agribusiness;
- Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in agribusiness;

- Doctorate of Economic Development;
- MS & Ph.D. in Water Science Management; and
- Minor in Agribusiness.

### *Masters of Science in Agricultural Economics*

Master of Science (MS) in Agricultural Economics program provides rigorous training in economic theory, applied economic analysis, and quantitative methods. The degree and curriculum are designed to prepare students for professional careers in business, government, research, and for continued education in pursuit of a Ph.D. The program requires students to complete a Master's thesis working closely with a faculty committee.

### *Masters of Agriculture with a concentration in Agribusiness*

Master of Agriculture (MAG-AB) with a concentration in Agribusiness provides students with backgrounds or interests in agriculture with graduate-level training in agribusiness and applied economics. Students are able to develop knowledge and skills related to applied economics, finance, marketing, management, and quantitative methods and skills commonly used in managing businesses operating within the food and fiber value chain. The degree offers an alternative for individuals holding undergraduate degrees in various agricultural and food science fields to learn and develop skills needed to start or manage an agricultural business. The program requires students to complete a creative component or thesis working closely with a faculty committee. Courses are offered in a hybrid format allowing students not living in or near Las Cruces to participate in the program. This program is also offered online allowing working professionals to participate in it.

### *Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Agribusiness*

Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Agribusiness (MBA-AB) prepares students for business and public sector careers in agriculture and the food and fiber industry. Graduates from this program are knowledgeable about the U.S. and international food and fiber sectors and hold an AACSB International accredited MBA degree.

### *Doctor of Economic Development*

Doctor of Economic Development (DED) is a professional doctorate designed to provide advanced training for economic development professionals. It is not designed to prepare graduates for academic careers.

### *Interdisciplinary Masters in Water Science and Management and Ph.D. in Water Science and Management*

The Water Science program is an interdisciplinary program supported by AEAB faculty that provides graduate education for the next generation of water resources researchers, educators, and managers. The program provides knowledge and tools that can be used to address state, national, and international water challenges including water quality, quantity, timing/availability, and location of water resources.

### *Minor in Agribusiness*

The graduate minor in Agribusiness provides graduate students training on business and economics methods to analyze agribusiness enterprises.