

AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION

Undergraduate Program Information

The department offers a broad-based curriculum with majors, options and minors that prepare students for many careers as professional educators, communicators and leaders in agricultural, natural resource, technology and related disciplines. Some example occupations that the department prepares its students to enter are agriculture teacher, media specialist, technology teacher, Extension agent, NMDA or USDA professional, industry educational specialist, and development specialist. Graduates work in domestic and/or international settings.

General Undergraduate Degree Requirements

You must meet the general education and departmental requirements for the degree and the major, option or minor chosen. You must establish a cumulative grade-point average of not less than 2.5 before you are admitted into the student teaching or other internship program. You need a minimum of 48 hours in technical agriculture for the secondary teaching certificate program in agriculture.

You may select technical courses required for completion of the majors and options from the following areas:

- agricultural economics (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/agricultural-consumer-environmental-sciences/agricultural-economics-business/>);
- agricultural mechanics;
- animal and range sciences (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/agricultural-consumer-environmental-sciences/animal-range-sciences/>);
- entomology, plant pathology and weed science (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/agricultural-consumer-environmental-sciences/entomology-science/>);
- fish, wildlife and conservation ecology (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/agricultural-consumer-environmental-sciences/fish-wildlife-conservation-ecology/>);
- plant and environmental sciences (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/agricultural-consumer-environmental-sciences/plant-environmental-sciences/>).

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education requires the following items be sent directly to the department for admission:

- **Three letters of recommendation** - Applicants should request letters of recommendation from individuals who know them well enough to comment on their professional skills and abilities, and on their ability to complete graduate-level work.
- **Career statement** - The two-page letter of application should clearly identify applicant's professional and career goals as well as reasons for pursuing the degree.
- **Personal Interview** - Upon receipt of all application materials, a personal interview may be required at the discretion of the Departmental Graduate Committee.

***Do not send the above items to the Graduate School as this will cause a delay on your admission status.**

General Graduate Degree Requirements

The major requires courses in research methods, teaching methods and data collection and analysis; a graduate seminar; and a thesis or creative component. The department also have two 9 credit minors which are available to students completing major work in other departments.

Thesis plan: Requires a minimum of 30 semester credits which includes 4-6 credits of thesis. *(Both plans require a final oral examination).*

Non-Thesis plan: Requires 32 semester credits of course work which includes a focused creative component. *(Both plans require a final oral examination).*

Flexibility in each program allows students to pursue professional interests and to develop specialized competencies in agricultural and extension education, technology education, and in technical and scientific areas. The department delivers courses in evening, weekend and distance formats (go to <https://global.nmsu.edu/> and click on degree programs, and then Agricultural and Extension Education) to accommodate student needs. Previous experience in teaching, extension and/or other professional education positions is highly recommended to be considered for a graduate teaching assistantship.

The department offers major work for a Master of Arts in Agricultural and Extension Education. The degree can be obtained with emphasis in

- Agricultural Teacher Education,
- Extension Education,
- Strategic Communications