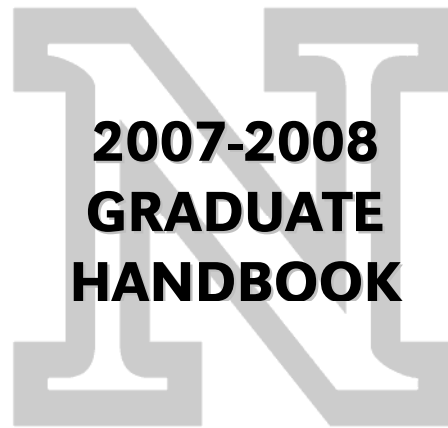


**DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**



**2007-2008  
GRADUATE  
HANDBOOK**

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln

## Graduate Studies in Agricultural Economics Introduction

The Department offers a number of degree opportunities, both within the agricultural economics discipline as well as in a number of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary areas. Some of the latter are offered jointly with other units on campus. The Department plays contributing roles in still others.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and Master of Science (M.S.) are the two agricultural economics discipline programs offered directly in the Department. Thesis and non-thesis options for the M.S. are available. For students in the non-thesis M.S. program, minors are required in related areas such as economics, business administration, psychology, political science, sociology, law, mathematics, computer science, and/or the agricultural sciences.

A Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a specialization in Agribusiness is available through the Department. This degree is offered jointly by the Department and the College of Business Administration. For further details on this program, see <http://www.mbaa.unl.edu/>.

Department faculty also collaborate with and teach courses in a number of other interdisciplinary graduate programs on campus, including the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA) Community Development program offered through the Master of Agriculture degree; for this program see <http://extension.unl.edu/comdev/>. Another program having this interdisciplinary character is the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Specialization within the M.S. and Ph.D. programs of the School of Natural Resources; for this program see [http://snrs.unl.edu/degrees/grad\\_Human\\_Dimensions.asp](http://snrs.unl.edu/degrees/grad_Human_Dimensions.asp). Still another interdisciplinary program is that represented in Water Resource Planning and Management, which can be accessed at <http://snr.unl.edu/programs/water.asp>. Graduate students in the M.S. and Ph.D. programs of the Department also have the opportunity to take courses, and otherwise interact with students and faculty in these interdisciplinary programs.

The following rules and procedures reflect Departmental and Graduate College policies and every effort will be made to keep them current. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* ([http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin\\_grad/](http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin_grad/)), particularly the sections dealing with Graduate College requirements and procedures.

Aside from Departmental and College requirements, the structuring and supervision of each student's academic and research programs are the primary responsibility of the student, the advisor and the supervisory committee. Students are expected to work closely with their advisor and supervisory committee, particularly in the conduct of research.

### Admission Policies

We seek students of high ability and commitment from a diverse array of cultural and academic backgrounds. We welcome students from all nations and all undergraduate and graduate majors.

### Master of Science (M.S.)

Students admitted for graduate study leading to the M.S. must have completed or complete after admission the following courses or their equivalents

MATH 104 or 106 – Calculus for Managerial and Social Sciences (3 semester hours)  
or Analytic Geometry and Calculus I (5 semester hours)  
STAT 218 - Introduction to Statistics (3 semester hours)  
ECON 311 - Intermediate Macroeconomics (3 semester hours)  
ECON 312 - Intermediate Microeconomics (3 semester hours)

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a U.S. university or a university outside the U.S. at which English is the official language of instruction. Students may submit either Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores of 550+ (paper-based exam) or 213 (computer-based exam); or, a minimum score of 6 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Test scores cannot be more than two years old. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at: [http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/intl/app\\_english.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/intl/app_english.shtml).

Students entering the M. S. Program without appropriate course requirements listed above may be required to take additional classes beyond the 30 to 36 semester hours of graduate credit required for the degree.

To be considered for financial assistance, all applications must be submitted by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

The Ph.D. program is open to students with a Bachelor's or a Master's degree. In either case, students must have completed or complete after admission the equivalent of the core requirements for the Master's degree in agricultural economics, and the following courses or their equivalent

MATH 107 and 208	Analytic Geometry and Calculus (9 semester hours)
AECN/ECON 815	Analytical Methods in Economics and Business (1 semester hour)
ECON 874	Macroeconomic Models and Applications (3 semester hours)

Official verification of English proficiency is required for students whose native language is not English. Exemptions are granted for non-native speakers who have received a bachelor's or more advanced degree from a U.S. university or a university outside the U.S. at which English is the official language of instruction. Students may submit either Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores of 550+ (paper-based exam) or 213 + (computer-based exam); or, a minimum score of 6 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Test scores cannot be more than two years old. Additional information on English proficiency requirements and exemptions can be found at: [http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/intl/app\\_english.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/intl/app_english.shtml).

The GRE is strongly suggested for financial assistance consideration and for admission in most circumstances.

## **Master of Science**

### **M.S. Options**

The M.S. can be either thesis or non-thesis option. The thesis option requires 30 hours of graduate credit including the thesis, and the non-thesis option requires 36 hours of credit including a minor in another area. Additional detail is found in the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* ([http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin\\_grad/](http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin_grad/)).

### **M.S. Core Requirements**

The following courses or their equivalents are required of all M.S. students:

ECON 817	Introduction to Econometrics	(3 semester hours)
AECN 821	Orientation to Research in Agricultural Economics	(1 semester hour)
AECN/ECON 873	Microeconomic Models and Applications	(3 semester hours)

Graduate College requirements vary by option and consist of a minimum number of credit hours in courses open only to graduate students.

Thesis credit will be granted only on a Pass/No Pass basis. Students registering for thesis credit should so register.

### **M.S. Supervisory Committee**

M.S. students in all options must have a supervisory committee. Each committee shall consist of at least three graduate faculty members, one of whom must be from a department other than Agricultural Economics. The committee approves and oversees the student's course program and thesis project. Approval of both should be obtained early in the student's program.

Students need to identify their supervisory committee before they decide on their thesis topic and begin developing their research proposal so the committee can be involved early in the process. Students shall orally present their research proposals to their supervisory committee as soon as the problem is defined and the conceptual framework is identified. The student and advisor will schedule this presentation with other members of the supervisory committee and invite all Agricultural Economics faculty and graduate students to the presentation. An announcement of the meeting time and place along with an abstract of the research proposal will be distributed to the departmental faculty and graduate students at least one week prior to the committee meeting. Anyone present may ask questions and/or make constructive suggestions.

### **M.S. Candidacy**

Following the removal of deficiencies, if any, the following forms with associated deadlines are required for candidacy and completion of a Masters degree.

#### **Memorandum of Courses**

The Memorandum should be filed by the student prior to the completion of half of the program.

- Download in writable PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Masters-Memorandum.pdf>.
- Obtain the required signatures and return the form to Terri Eastin ([teastin1@unl.edu](mailto:teastin1@unl.edu)), UNL Masters Program Specialist.
- When the Memorandum of Courses is brought to the Graduate Committee Chair for signature, the Memorandum should be accompanied by the *Department of Agricultural Economics M.S. Supervisory Committee Form* <http://www.agecon.unl.edu/GraduatePrograms/MS-SupervisoryCommitteeForm.doc>
- Once a Memorandum is submitted, the Option may not be changed.
- For more information, see page 15 of the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* ([http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin\\_grad/](http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin_grad/)).

#### **Final Examination Report Form**

The Final Examination Report Form should be filed at least four weeks prior to the date of the oral exam or by the date specified on the calendar of deadlines.

- Download in format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Masters-FinalExam.pdf>.
- Parts 1 through 4 (and 5 if thesis option) must be completed prior to submission to Graduate Studies.
- Obtain the required signatures and return the form to Eastin ([teastin1@unl.edu](mailto:teastin1@unl.edu)).

#### **Application for Degree**

Download this form in PDF format at [http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/App\\_for\\_Degree.pdf](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/App_for_Degree.pdf).

The completed form and \$25 payment should be filed with Graduation Services ([http://www.unl.edu/regrec/graduation/grad\\_main.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/regrec/graduation/grad_main.shtml)), 109 Canfield Administration Building, before the deadline date for the expected graduation term.

### **M.S. Examinations**

A student whose program includes a minor in another department may be required to take a comprehensive examination in his/her minor field. Comprehensive examinations in a minor field may be waived subject to the approval of both the major and minor departments providing all grades in the minor are "B" or higher. Each student should arrange with his/her supervisory committee for taking minor comprehensive exams or

for having them waived. The minor department determines the nature of comprehensive exams, if any are required.

Final oral examinations (<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Masters-FinalExam.pdf>) are administered by the student's supervisory committee and meet the Graduate College requirement of a comprehensive examination.

### **Time Limits**

The work required for a masters degree must be completed within 10 consecutive years. Course work exceeding 10 years will not apply toward the partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for masters degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

## **Doctor of Philosophy**

### **Ph. D. Core Requirements**

The Ph.D. program approved by the student's supervisory committee must include the following core courses or their equivalents:

ECON 957 and 958 Econometrics I & II	(6 credit hours)
ECON 973 and 983 Advanced Microeconomics I & II	(6 credit hours)
ECON 974 Advanced Macro Economics I	(3 credit hours)
Two courses from the AECN 901 block	(6-credit hours)
Two courses from the AECN 902 block	(6-credit hours)
Any M.S. core program not previously taken.	

A minimum of 90 semester hours of graduate credit, including the dissertation, is required. Not fewer than 45 semester hours must be completed at the University of Nebraska.

Dissertation credit will be granted only on a Pass/No Pass basis. Students registering for dissertation credit should register for the credit hours as Pass/No Pass.

The above-requirements are for the most part in addition to those specified by the Graduate College. Students should study the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* ([http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin\\_grad/](http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/bulletin_grad/)) and be familiar with requirements and procedures set forth therein.

### **Ph. D. Candidacy**

The following forms with associated deadlines are required for candidacy and completion of a Doctoral degree.

### **Appointment of the Supervisory Committee**

The Appointment of Supervisory Committee form should be filed by the student prior to the completion of 45 credit hours, exclusive of research tools or language requirements.

- Download this form (must be typed) in writable PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-SupCommittee.pdf>.
- The Graduate Chair of the department/program must sign the form.
- The committee must consist of at least four graduate faculty members, including an NU graduate faculty member from outside the department or area in which the doctorate is to be granted. If a minor is sought, the committee should include a representative from the minor department.

- If any changes to the committee are made after this form is submitted to Graduate Studies, the student's advisor must notify the Doctoral Specialist in writing. We recommend using the *Change of Committee* form (Word format) at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-SupCommitteeChange.doc>, especially when changing chairs.
- For more information, see page 14 in the Graduate Bulletin.

### **Program of Studies for the Doctoral Degree**

At its initial meeting, the supervisory committee approves the student's program of studies and the general area of research for the dissertation. The Program of Studies form must be completed and submitted to the Graduate Studies office within three weeks of approval of the Supervisory Committee by Graduate Studies.

- Download this form (must be typed) in writable PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-Program.pdf>.
- The form must be signed by the Supervisory Committee Chair.
- The doctorate degree requires a minimum of 90 total credit hours, including a minimum of 12 hours (maximum 55) of dissertation. At the time of the filing of the Program of Studies, there should be at least 45 hours remaining to be taken, exclusive of research tools, language requirements, or collateral courses.
- After the Program of Studies has been filed with Graduate Studies, any changes should be submitted in writing. A "Request for Change of Program" form is available from Graduate Studies, or a memo/email may be submitted by the student's advisor to the Doctoral Specialist outlining the additions, deletions, or substitutions.
- For more information, see pages 14-15 in the Graduate Bulletin.

### **Presentation of Research Proposal**

Students shall present their research proposal at a departmental seminar as soon as the problem is defined and the conceptual framework is identified. The student and advisor will schedule this presentation with other members of the supervisory committee and all Agricultural Economics faculty and graduate students. An announcement of the meeting time and place along with an abstract of the research proposal will be distributed to the departmental faculty and graduate students at least one week prior to the seminar. Anyone present may ask questions and/or make constructive suggestions. Final approval of the research proposal is by the supervisory committee.

### **Application for Admission to Candidacy**

Once the student has completed a substantial number of the credits on his or her Program of Studies and passed the written comprehensive exams administered by the department in the major and minor (if applicable) fields, the student is eligible to apply for doctoral candidacy.

- Download this form (must be typed) in writable PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-Candidacy.pdf>
- The form must be filed seven months prior to the student's final oral examination. All language and research tools must be satisfied.
- Prior to submission to the Graduate Studies office, signatures must be obtained from all committee members.
- Once candidacy is achieved, registration is required each academic semester (Fall and Spring) until the student graduates. This requirement stands even if all credit hours, including dissertation, have already been taken. Failure to register will result in a termination of candidacy.
- For more information, see pages 14-15 in the Graduate Bulletin.

If the term of candidacy is extended beyond three years, the candidate must pass another comprehensive examination. Following admission to candidacy, the student must register in the Graduate College during each academic-year semester until the Ph.D. degree has been awarded. Students not in residence may register for minimum of one semester hour credit in dissertation on forms available from the Office of Graduate Studies. Failure to register during each academic-year semester will result in the termination of candidacy.

## **Application for Degree**

Download this form (must be typed) in PDF format

[http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/App\\_for\\_Degree.pdf](http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/App_for_Degree.pdf).

The completed form and \$25 payment should be filed with Graduation Services

([http://www.unl.edu/regrec/graduation/grad\\_main.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/regrec/graduation/grad_main.shtml)), 109 Canfield Administration Building, before the deadline date for the expected graduation term.

## **Application for Final Oral Examination or Waiver**

Once the dissertation is written, approved by the student's committee chair and the two designated readers, the student is eligible to apply for the final oral examination.

- Download this form (must be typed) in <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-FinalOral.pdf> or in WORD format at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/downloads/Doctoral-FinalOral.doc>.
- The form must be filed at least **three weeks** prior to the scheduled final oral exam (dissertation defense).
- Before the form is submitted to Graduate Studies, the two designated readers must read the dissertation and sign the form. The chair or co-chairs must also sign prior to submission of the form.
- The final oral should be scheduled at a time when a majority of the committee, including the chair/co-chairs, can attend.
- The final oral may be waived if there is unanimous consent of all members of the supervisory committee. If the examination is to be waived, all members of the committee must sign the form and a reason for the waiver must be included on the form.
- For more information, see page 15 in the Graduate Bulletin.

## **Final Packet for Doctoral Students**

Upon receipt of the Application for Final Oral Exam, final instructions will be provided. The instructions include a web address for a page that houses all the forms and paperwork needed from the time of defense through the depositing of the dissertation. To ensure that these final steps go smoothly, the final instructions should be read with care.

## **Ph.D. Examinations**

### **A. Qualifiers**

1. All students enrolled in the Agricultural Economics Ph.D. program are required to take a written qualifying examination in Microeconomic Theory administered jointly with the Economics Department, a written qualifying examination in Applied Microeconomics and Econometrics administered by the Agricultural Economics Department, and demonstrate proficiency in econometrics before they can be admitted to candidacy. The written qualifying examination in microeconomic theory will be used to assess the student's knowledge in microeconomic theory. The written qualifying examination in applied microeconomics and econometrics will be used to assess the student's ability to apply economic principles and econometric methods to analyzing agricultural economics problems. A student will demonstrate proficiency in econometrics by taking Economics 957 and 958 and earning grades of B or better in each.
2. The Agricultural Economics Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Committee (as defined below) shall administer the written qualifying examination in applied microeconomics and econometrics.
3. Each student will be allowed up to two attempts to successfully pass the two written qualifying examination.
4. Once a student has passed the two examinations and met the proficiency requirement for econometrics, he or she will be considered to have met the qualifying requirements of the Department.

## B. Oral Qualifying Examination

1. If a student has met the proficiency requirement in econometrics, passed at least one of the two written qualifiers, and exhausted all of the attempts permitted for the written qualifiers (two attempts per examination as specified above), the student will be allowed to advance toward candidacy by successfully passing an oral qualifying examination conducted by the Agricultural Economics Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Committee (as defined below). The purpose of the oral qualifying examination will be to determine whether the student has sufficient knowledge and abilities in microeconomic and econometric theory and their applications to agricultural economic problems to justify being allowed to continue in the program.
2. The range of topics that may be covered in the oral qualifying examination shall consist of the combined range of topics that could be covered in the two written qualifiers but shall not be limited to the questions on the written examinations. The committee shall be free to examine the student on whatever topics are necessary to establish whether the student has eliminated the deficiencies that contributed to his or her failure in one or two of the written qualifiers or to establish that the student has strengths in some areas that are sufficient to compensate for weaknesses in others.
3. Whether the student passes the oral qualifying examination shall be determined by a simple majority vote of the Agricultural Economics PhD Qualifying Examination Committee (as defined below).
4. Students who are determined to have passed the oral qualifying examination shall be considered to have met the qualifying examination requirement of the department. Those students who are determined to have failed the oral qualifying examination shall be terminated from the program.

### **The Agricultural Economics PhD Qualifying Examination Committee**

1. The Agricultural Economics PhD Qualifying Examination Committee shall consist of four members from the Department of Agricultural Economics faculty (as described below). In addition, the chair of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee will serve as an *ex officio* member with limited voting rights (as described below).
2. The four members of the examination committee will be appointed by the Agricultural Economics Department Head in consultation with the chair of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee. To be eligible for appointment to the examination committee, an individual must be active in science, for example, publishing professional articles, presenting papers at professional conferences, advising graduate students, or teaching graduate courses.
3. The term for each of the four members of the examination committee appointed by the Agricultural Economics Department Head shall be two years. The terms of the four members shall be staggered so that there is a turnover of one member every year. At first, two members will be appointed to a one-year initial term in order to create the staggered terms.
4. Once a member of the examination committee appointed to represent the Department of Agricultural Economics faculty has completed a two-year term, that individual shall not be eligible for reappointment to the committee for a period of one year.
5. The Chair of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the examination committee and shall be entitled to participate fully in conducting both written and oral examinations (as described above) but will be limited to voting only in those cases in which his or her vote is necessary to break a tie.
6. The written agricultural economics qualifying examination will be written and graded by the members of the Department of Agricultural Economics PhD Qualifying Examination Committee. Before writing the examination, the committee shall solicit potential questions from the Agricultural Economics faculty.

7. The examination committee shall be chaired by one of the two senior members of the four members appointed by the Agricultural Economics Department Head. Seniority is defined in terms of continuous service on the examination committee.
8. In the event that the major advisor of a student taking a written or oral qualifying examination is a member of the examination committee, the Agricultural Economics Department Head will appoint a temporary replacement in consultation with the chair of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee and according to the eligibility requirements (as defined above).

### **Schedule of Examinations**

1. The written qualifying examinations in microeconomics and applied microeconomics and econometrics will be offered annually in January and August. Students who fail a particular written qualifying examination must make their second attempt at passing the examination the first time it is offered after the failed attempt.
2. A student is generally expected to take a written qualifying examination the first time the examination is offered after the student has completed the course sequence in microeconomic theory and econometrics.
3. The oral qualifying examination, for those students who must take it, shall be scheduled within two months after the student is notified of the results of his or her last written qualifying examination.

### **C. Comprehensive Examinations**

Students must pass comprehensive examinations that are mandated by the Graduate College after their program of studies has been substantially completed. The exams should normally be taken following the fourth semester in the PhD program. These examinations are administered by the student's Supervisory Committee and shall consist of any number of written and/or oral parts at the discretion of the Supervisory Committee.

If the student has a minor, the minor department normally administers a comprehensive exam in its field. The student's supervisory committee conducts the final oral examination. The committee reports the results of the examination to the Graduate College. The dissertation and the abstract, in their final form, must be approved, as part of the examination process, by the advisor and two other members of the supervisory committee.

The final oral examination over the dissertation may be waived with the unanimous consent of the supervisory committee and consent of the Agricultural Economics Graduate Committee. The supervisory committee reports the reason for waiver of the exam to the Office of Graduate Studies.

### **Assistantships**

Graduate Research Assistantships (GRA) are awarded to full-time students on an annual basis from departmental funds which include Agricultural Research Division (ARD) funds and funds obtained by individual faculty from regional research allocations, state and national grants and contracts, cooperative agreements, and other sources. GRAs require students to work for a specified number of assistantship hours per week. The number of hours is approximately equal to  $20 \times ((\text{GRA amount awarded}) / (12\text{-month one-half time assistantship rate}))$  but cannot exceed 20 hours per week.

Incoming students whose GRAs are from ARD funds are usually assigned to two ARD Assistantship Advisor(s) (ARDAAs) to perform specific research tasks. Assignment preference will be given to faculty members who have collaborated in recruitment of respective students. The two ARDAAs may or may not have a common research assignment. The research tasks are determined by the advisors at the beginning of each semester with the expectation that the students will allocate half of their weekly hours to each ARDAAs. At the end of each semester, a Graduate Research Assistant Report of Research Accomplishments should be sent by the ARDAAs to the Graduate Committee with a copy to the Department Head. The specific weekly assistantship hours during which the student performs the tasks are determined

by the students and reported to their respective ARDAAs and the Chair of the Graduate Committee immediately after students determine their class schedules for the semester.

At the end of each semester, students on GRAs from ARD funds have the option of switching to other ARDAAs and the ARDAAs have the option of switching to other students. Students interested in changing to a different ARDAA are encouraged to visit with the Graduate Committee Chair. The Committee Graduate Chair will collaborate with each student and his/her ARDAAs to implement the change, subject to the approval of the ARDAA to whom the student wishes to transfer. The Graduate Committee Chair should be advised of the switch prior to the start of a semester.

GRA research conducted under the ARDAAs may or may not relate directly to the desired topic of thesis or dissertation research. Thesis and dissertation research by students with GRAs from ARD funds is conducted under a major professor chosen by the student and represents work based on a formal thesis or dissertation research proposal that has been written and defended by the student, and for which the student receives credit in AECN 899 for a thesis and AECN 999 for a dissertation.

Master's students are expected to choose a major professor prior to or at the completion of one-half of the Master's program and work closely with the major professor to prepare the thesis proposal. Ph.D. students are expected to choose a major professor prior to or at the completion of more than one-half of the post-bachelor's program of study (including transfer credits) and work with the major professor to prepare the dissertation proposal.

Once a thesis or dissertation proposal is approved, the assistantship hours are typically credited for the thesis or dissertation research for the rest of the duration of the assistantship. Guidelines for graduate assistantships are updated by the Office of Graduate Studies on an annual basis. See current guidelines at <http://www.agecon.unl.edu/GraduatePrograms/0708GuidelinesforGraduateAssistantships.pdf>.

### **Evaluation, Reappointment and Reassignment of RA's**

The Departmental Graduate Committee will consider reappointment of graduate assistants after spring semester grade reports are received. Students eligible for normal renewal will be automatically considered for that renewal, whereas the funding for M.S. students who will be completing two years and Ph.D. students who will be completing three years on appointment will be terminated unless an extension is awarded. An appeal for extension must be filed by the student and supported by the research supervisor and academic advisor. All reappointments will be based on the student's academic record and a progress report in which the student documents accomplishments during the current appointment and states plans or preferences for research assignment during the next appointment and an evaluation of the research assistant by the research supervisor. After consultation with the Head, the committee will inform students of their reappointment status by the end of May.

Information on assistantship related benefits and tuition remission is available on the UNL Graduate Studies website at: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/funding-assist.shtml>

### **Thesis Policies**

Each student must provide a final copy of the thesis to the Department (unbound) and another to the advisor. Two additional copies must be deposited in Love Library as prescribed in the Graduate Bulletin.

Agricultural Research Division funds are provided for the conduct of research on approved agricultural economics research projects. These funds can be used to defray expenses incurred in the planning, collection and analysis of data.

Students are expected to type their own thesis and to pay the cost of making the necessary copies.

## **Leave**

Military leave of up to two weeks per year with pay is granted. If the duration of the leave is more than two weeks, the additional leave is granted as leave without pay. The student is responsible for scheduling any make-up work with his/her advisor.

Students should inform their advisors in advance of their leave intentions. Their advisor and the department head must approve annual leave for students on assistantship in advance. Failure to do so may result in leave without pay.

## **Graduate Credit for Seniors**

Seniors may earn up to 12 hours of graduate credit during the last calendar year prior to their graduation. Students must make application with the Office of Graduate Studies for graduate credit at time of registration. Courses taken for graduate credit cannot also be used to meet requirements for an undergraduate degree.

## **Scholastic Guidelines**

The graduate program in this Department is designed to help students to further their understanding about the science and philosophy of economics, as well as its practical applications. Students are expected to read widely in the scholarly literature, including journal papers, books and other material, during the course of the program. The graduate program is largely about self-study on the part of each student, which is helped by courses that also draw on this same scholarly literature. In terms of specific courses, the goal is to improve student understanding of the science behind each particular course, as reflected in materials referenced and otherwise made available to students during the course. One indicator of student progress in this quest is given by the grades earned in each course and the overall grade point average (GPA) maintained throughout the program.

The Graduate Committee will assess progress in annual reviews of grades and the overall GPA for each graduate student. Students are expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0 for all graduate courses taken. Even if the GPA is 3.0 or better, however, if grades of less than B are earned in core courses, the student is expected to study these materials on their own, and perhaps even go through such courses a second time, in order to develop the proficiency needed in these key areas.

All students will be placed on probation the first semester the overall GPA falls below 3.0. After a second consecutive semester with a GPA below 3.0, a student will generally be dismissed from the program after review by the Graduate Committee. The student who is on a Graduate Research Assistantship or other funding source will also generally lose financial support at this time.

Any student who has been dropped from the program may apply to the Graduate Committee for reinstatement. Reinstatement requires evidence of potential for satisfactory performance. The recommendation of the student's advisor will be a major consideration.