



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Graduate Student Policy and Procedures

Academic Year
2026-2027

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1. About This Handbook

Purpose and Authority

This handbook describes the policies, procedures, academic requirements, and expectations specific to the graduate programs administered by the UGA [Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics](#). It supplements the policies of the University of Georgia, the UGA Graduate School, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the University System of Georgia. It does not replace or supersede those policies.

The [UGA Policy Library](#) and the [Graduate School Policies](#) website are the official sources for university graduate policies. When this handbook conflicts with current university or Graduate School policy, the university or Graduate School policy controls. Students should consult the Graduate Policies website and contact the AAEC Director of Graduate Studies or AAEC Graduate Program Administrator with questions.

Effective Date and Revisions

Students who first matriculate in the 2026-2027 academic year are subject to the departmental degree requirements in this handbook. Students who matriculated in an earlier academic year ordinarily remain subject to the departmental degree requirements in effect when they entered the program. With approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, a continuing student may elect to follow the requirements of a later handbook in its entirety but may not combine selected requirements from different handbook years. Current university and Graduate School policies apply to all students regardless of matriculation year.

Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for understanding and satisfying all university, Graduate School, college, department, and degree requirements. Students are also responsible for meeting published deadlines, monitoring their UGA email, maintaining regular communication with their major professor and program administrators, and ensuring that required forms are submitted and approved. Faculty and staff provide guidance, but that guidance does not transfer responsibility for degree completion or deadlines from the student.

2. Department and Graduate Programs

Department Overview

The [Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics](#) (AAEC) is part of the University of Georgia [College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#). The department integrates teaching, research, Extension, and service to address economic and managerial questions involving agriculture, food systems, agribusiness, natural resources, the environment, rural and international development, and related public policy. Graduate education emphasizes economic reasoning, quantitative analysis, professional communication, and the application of research to important real-world problems.

Department website: [Graduate Programs in Agricultural and Applied Economics](#)

Graduate Degrees

Master of Agribusiness (MAB)

Master of Science (M.S.) in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Master of Science (M.S.) in Environmental Economics

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Graduate Program Administration

The AAEC Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) is the faculty member responsible for the administration of the department's graduate programs and serves as the primary liaison with the Graduate School. The Graduate Program Administrator (GPA) supports graduate admissions, student records, forms, deadlines, registration, defenses, and other administrative processes. The Graduate Committee advises the DGS and department head on admissions, assistantships, curriculum, academic progress, and graduate program policy. The MAB Program Coordinator provides additional leadership for the Master of Agribusiness program.

Greg Colson	Department Head
Chen Zhen	Director of Graduate Studies
Will Secor	MAB Program Coordinator
Craig Landry	Graduate Student Job Placement Coordinator
Jeanne Taylor	Graduate Program Administrator

3. Global Expectations of All Graduate Students

Graduate study is both an academic undertaking and preparation for professional work. All graduate students are expected to meet the following standards throughout their enrollment in the department.

Professional behavior. Students are expected to demonstrate integrity, reliability, respect for others, and appropriate professional judgment in academic, research, employment, and departmental activities.

Academic and research integrity. Students must comply with UGA policies governing academic honesty, research integrity, responsible conduct of research, use of human participants and other regulated research, intellectual property, authorship, and the appropriate use of data and university resources.

Respectful environment. Students must comply with university policies concerning nondiscrimination, anti-harassment, student conduct, workplace violence, and respectful treatment of members of the university and broader community.

Academic progress. Students are expected to complete coursework, examinations, research, forms, and other degree milestones within the timelines established by the Graduate School and the department.

Communication. Students are expected to communicate regularly and professionally with the AAEC DGS, GPA, major professor, advisory committee, instructors, and assistantship supervisor and to respond to official communications, including emails, in a timely manner.

Departmental participation. Students are expected to participate regularly in the intellectual and professional life of the department, including research seminars, thesis and dissertation presentations, professional-development activities, and other relevant departmental events. Registration and attendance requirements for research seminars (AAEC 8010) are specified in the degree sections.

Assistantship responsibilities. Students holding assistantships are expected to complete assigned duties reliably, communicate with their supervisor, follow applicable employment policies, and recognize that assistantship duties are employment responsibilities.

Professional development. Students are expected to develop research, teaching, communication, collaboration, and career-management skills appropriate to their degree and career objectives.

Key University Policies and Standards

Academic Honesty:	https://integrity.uga.edu/academic-honesty-policy/
Student Code of Conduct:	https://conduct.uga.edu/code-of-conduct/
Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination:	https://eoo.uga.edu/laws-policies-and-regulations/
Research Integrity and Safety:	https://research.uga.edu/integrity/
Human Research Protection Program and IRB:	https://research.uga.edu/hrpp/
Research Misconduct:	https://research.uga.edu/misconduct/

Allegations of academic dishonesty, student misconduct, discrimination, harassment, or research misconduct are handled through the applicable university process. The department will not substitute an informal departmental process for a required university process.

4. Admissions

General Admission Requirements

Admission to a graduate program is a collaborative decision of the department and the UGA Graduate School. Applicants must satisfy Graduate School requirements and the academic preparation and application requirements established by the department. Admission is competitive and is based on a review of the complete application.

Applicants are expected to submit the Graduate School application, academic records, a statement of purpose, a current resume or curriculum vitae, letters of recommendation, and any entrance test or English-language proficiency scores required by the Graduate School or department at the time of application. The department requires GRE test scores for all graduate degrees, and this requirement cannot be waived. Current requirements, deadlines, and instructions are published online and control over any summary in this handbook.

Department Admissions:	https://agecon.uga.edu/graduate/admission.html
UGA Graduate Admissions Requirements:	https://grad.uga.edu/admissions/requirements/
UGA Graduate Application:	https://grad.uga.edu/admissions/apply-now/

Academic Preparation

The department welcomes applicants from a range of academic backgrounds. An undergraduate degree in economics is not required. Degree-specific prerequisites and recommended preparation are provided in the MAB, M.S., and Ph.D. sections of this handbook. Students admitted without one or more prerequisites may be required to complete additional coursework that does not count toward the minimum hours for the degree.

Admission Terms and Funding Consideration

Available admission terms, departmental deadlines, and deadlines for assistantship or fellowship consideration are published on the department and Graduate School websites. Decisions to offer graduate assistantships to incoming students are made at the department level and not by individual faculty. Applicants do not need to secure a major professor before applying to any of the department's graduate programs.

5. Enrollment Requirements and Time Limits

Minimum and Continuous Enrollment

Use of university resources. A graduate student must register for at least three graduate credit hours in any semester in which the student uses university facilities, resources, or faculty or staff time.

Continuous enrollment. Graduate students must register for at least three graduate credit hours in at least two semesters during each academic year, consisting of fall, spring, and summer, until all degree requirements are completed or degree-seeking status is terminated.

Final-semester enrollment. A student must register for at least three graduate credit hours during the semester in which all degree requirements are completed.

Assistantship enrollment. Students receiving a departmental assistantship must register for 18 credit hours during each semester in which they are funded. This departmental requirement exceeds the general Graduate School minimum for assistantship holders.

Other requirements. Financial aid, immigration status, veterans' benefits, fellowships, and other programs may impose additional enrollment requirements. Students are responsible for satisfying all requirements that apply to them.

Current policy and deadlines: [Graduate Policies](#) and [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)

Leave of Absence

A leave of absence allows a student experiencing unusual circumstances to be temporarily exempt from continuous enrollment. A leave requires approval by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and the dean of the Graduate School and is granted only for good cause. During an approved leave, a student may not use UGA facilities or resources reserved for enrolled students, receive a UGA assistantship, fellowship, or financial aid, or take UGA courses related to the program of study. Time covered by an approved leave does not count toward the Graduate School degree time limit. Students should begin the request with the DGS before the semester for which leave is needed whenever possible.

Degree Time Limits

Master's degrees. MAB and M.S. students must complete all degree requirements within six years of matriculation unless an approved exception applies.

Doctoral degree. Students who matriculated in Fall 2024 or later must complete all Ph.D. requirements and have the degree awarded within eight calendar years after initial enrollment or the first course approved for inclusion on the doctoral program of study, whichever occurred earlier. Students who matriculated before Fall 2024 are governed by the doctoral time-limit policy applicable to their cohort.

Approved leave. Time covered by an approved leave of absence is excluded from the applicable Graduate School time limit.

Extensions of Time

A student who cannot complete the degree within the applicable Graduate School time limit may petition for an extension when permitted by current policy. A petition must explain the circumstances preventing timely completion, provide a detailed completion timeline, and include the required support from the major professor, DGS, and department head. Approval is not automatic. Students should consult the DGS well before the time limit expires.

6. Academic Progress, Probation, and Dismissal

Graduate School Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing, graduate students must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on the graduate transcript and a GPA of at least 3.0 on all courses included on the program of study. No grade below C may be included on a program of study. Degree-seeking students must also have a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.0 to be admitted to candidacy and to graduate. Current Graduate School policy controls the calculation of repeated courses, incomplete grades, probation, and dismissal.

Departmental Good Standing and Satisfactory Progress

In addition to Graduate School academic standing, students must meet the good-standing requirements, curriculum requirements, examinations, research expectations, committee deadlines, and milestones specified for their degree. Satisfactory progress includes completing requirements within the stated timelines, maintaining a viable major-professor and advisory-committee relationship when required, and making appropriate progress on the thesis, dissertation, technical paper, or other required research. Assistantship performance, renewal, and employment actions are addressed separately in Section 10.

Program Probation and Remediation

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), in consultation with the student's major professor or advisory committee and the department head, may place a student on program probation when the student is not meeting departmental requirements or making satisfactory progress. When remediation is appropriate, the student will receive written notice identifying the deficiency, the actions required to return to good standing, the deadline for completing those actions, and the consequences of failing to do so. Some requirements, including examination-attempt limits stated in this handbook, may result in dismissal without an additional remediation period after the permitted opportunities have been exhausted.

Grounds for Departmental Dismissal

A student may be dismissed from a departmental graduate program for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Failure to maintain Graduate School academic standing or satisfy conditions of academic or program probation.
- Failure to satisfy degree-specific good-standing requirements, required coursework, examinations, or milestones within the stated timeline or permitted number of attempts.
- Failure to follow an approved program of study or other departmental or Graduate School requirements.
- Failure to make sufficient and sustained progress on a thesis, dissertation, technical paper, or research.
- Failure to identify or maintain a major professor or advisory committee when required, when the department determines that no reasonable path to degree completion remains.
- Conduct resulting in a university sanction that prevents continued enrollment or completion of program requirements.
- Other circumstances permitted under current Graduate School probation and dismissal policy.

Dismissal Decisions and Appeals

A decision to dismiss a student from a departmental graduate program will be made by the department head upon recommendation of the DGS. The decision will be communicated to the student in writing and will state the basis for dismissal. A student may appeal the decision under the current UGA Graduate School Appeals policy, which governs the procedure and deadline for an appeal.

Graduate School Probation and Dismissal: <https://grad.uga.edu/graduate-policies/>

Graduate School Appeals: <https://grad.uga.edu/graduate-policies/>

Conflict Resolution and Grievances

Students are encouraged to address academic, advising, employment, or interpersonal concerns early. When appropriate, a student should first discuss the concern with the faculty member, major professor, committee member, instructor, or assistantship supervisor involved. A student may then seek assistance from the DGS. Concerns involving the DGS may be directed to the department head. University Ombudspersons are available as independent, neutral, and informal resources. Formal allegations or complaints must be submitted through the university office responsible for the matter.

UGA Ombudspersons: <https://ombuds.uga.edu/>

UGA Student Complaints: <https://studentcomplaints.uga.edu/>

7. Master of Agribusiness (MAB) Degree

The Master of Agribusiness (MAB) program prepares students for a successful career in food, fiber, farming, and related sectors by developing their agribusiness management and decision-making expertise in areas including marketing, finance, data analysis, and strategy.

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics, or econometrics are prerequisites for the MAB program. Econometrics, intermediate macroeconomics, and linear algebra are recommended. Any student accepted into the MAB program who has not met these prerequisites will take coursework identified through consultation with the MAB Program Coordinator to fulfill the requirements in addition to the 36-hour minimum.

Curriculum Requirements. The MAB degree requires 36 hours of coursework along with a technical paper. *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must register for a total of 18 credit hours each semester they are funded.* Generally, this consists of required coursework and up to 9 research credit hours (AAEC 7000) each semester.

Good Standing for MAB Students. Several milestones must be achieved by the student in a timely manner. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to other departmental resources. To remain in good standing, MAB students must:

1. Maintain good academic standing under the Graduate School policy.
2. Complete the required coursework and other curriculum requirements for the degree.
3. Form an advisory committee by the end of the first semester and submit the program of study by the end of the second semester.
4. Make satisfactory and sustained progress on the technical paper and complete and present an acceptable technical paper.
5. Satisfactorily complete all assigned assistantship responsibilities during each semester in which the student holds an assistantship.

Advisory Committee. MAB students must have an approved advisory committee consisting of at least two members. The major professor must be a member of the AAEC graduate faculty; the second member may come from any department within the University of Georgia. If the student has two co-major professors, one additional member is required. The committee must be chosen before the end of the first semester. Selection of the advisory committee is based on the student's expressed interests and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve.

Changes in the major professor or advisory committee must be coordinated with the Director of Graduate Studies and submitted to the Graduate School when required. When a major professor leaves the university, is unable to continue serving, or the advising relationship can no longer continue, the Director of Graduate Studies will work with the student and faculty involved to identify an appropriate path forward. No faculty member is required to accept or continue serving as a student's major professor.

Program of Study (POS). A student's program of study and technical paper are developed in consultation with the advisory committee. The program of study must show how the degree requirements will be met and must be submitted by the end of the student's second semester. The program of study is submitted to the Graduate School in DegreeWorks and is subject to approval by the advisory committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the dean of the Graduate School. All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by the advisory

committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks. MAB students must be advised by their major professor or the MAB Program Coordinator before being cleared to register each semester. While the advisory committee will provide guidance on initiating a technical paper and conducting research, responsibility for completing the technical paper rests with the graduate student. MAB students must give an oral presentation to their committee on the technical paper before graduation. The presentation must be scheduled with the Graduate Program Administrator at least three weeks in advance.

MAB Degree Requirements

A. Agribusiness Management and Quantitative Requirements (24 hours)

AAEC 6630E	Quantitative Methods for Agribusiness Management (3 hours)
AAEC 6640	Food Marketing and Merchandising (3 hours)
AAEC 6730	Agribusiness Accounting (3 hours)
AAEC 6740E	Agribusiness Financial Management (3 hours)
AAEC 6570	Economic Tools for Business Decisions (3 hours)
AAEC 6980	Advanced Agribusiness Management (3 hours)
AAEC 7000	Master's Research (3 hours)
AAEC 7310	Masters of Agribusiness Research Project (3 hours)

B. Concentration Course Electives (12 hours)

Choose courses from below or other 6000-level or above courses approved by the student's advisory committee to fulfill the 12-hour concentration course elective requirement:

AAEC 6150	Energy Economics (3 hours)
AAEC 6200	Advanced Agricultural Selling (3 hours)
AAEC 6510	Land Economics (3 hours)
AAEC 6710	Rural Economic Development and Growth (3 hours)
AAEC 6870	Futures and Option Markets (3 hours)
AESC 6100	Applied Agricultural Data Science (3 hours)
AESC 6200	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Agriculture: Principles and Applications (3 hours)
ALDR 6080	Agriculture and Extension Administration (3 hours)
ALDR 6600E	The Global Seminar - Global Issues in Agriculture and the Environment (3 hours)
ALDR 6700E	Introduction to Extension and Engagement (3 hours)
ALDR 7500E	Leading Team and Organizational Development (3 hours)
ENVM 6060	Natural Resource Economics (3 hours)
ENVM 6800	Water Resource Economics and Management (3 hours)
JURI 6810	Natural Resources Law (3 hours)

C. A technical paper and presentation based on the student's work in AAEC 7310 is required. The subject and structure of the technical paper will be developed in consultation with the student's advisory committee. This paper must be approved by the student's advisory committee, and a report of satisfactory achievement must be filed with the Graduate School after the technical paper presentation.

D. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of the first academic semester.

Checklist for MAB Degree

Students are responsible for meeting the deadlines posted by the Graduate School.

First semester

- 1___ Form an advisory committee and submit [Advisory Committee \(M.A. & M.S.\)](#) form in GradSlate before the end of your first semester.

*At a minimum, you must have a major professor and one additional member. **Your major professor must be AAEC graduate faculty.***

Second semester

- 2___ Submit your Program of Study (POS) form in DegreeWorks to the Graduate School (**EOS Deadline**).
Consult with your major professor/committee for guidance on electives before submitting the form. The Graduate Program Administrator (GPA) can help with the form submission. Reminder: All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by your advisory committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks.

Final Semester. All steps have firm deadlines. Check [Grad School Important Deadlines](#).

- 3___ Apply for graduation in Athena using the [Application for Graduation](#) form.
Due Date: Approximately the first week of the semester.
- 4___ Set the date and time of the technical paper presentation with your advisory committee and submit the Technical Paper approval form to the Graduate Program Administrator, who will reserve a room.
Due Date: At least two weeks before the presentation.
- 5___ Submit the technical paper to the advisory committee.
Due Date: At least two weeks before the presentation.
- 6___ Successfully present the technical paper and receive advisory-committee approval. After the presentation, the Graduate Program Administrator will route the approval form to the committee for electronic signatures and submit it to the Graduate School as required.
Due Date: At least one week before the Graduate School's final date for receipt of all materials required for graduation.
- 7___ Complete the exit survey and exit interview with the department head.

8. M.S. Degree Programs

The Master of Science (M.S.) degrees in Agricultural and Applied Economics and Environmental Economics prepare students for careers in the private and public sectors or further graduate study. Through advanced training in economic analysis, quantitative methods, and applied research, students develop the skills to address challenges involving agriculture, food systems, markets, economic development, the environment, and natural resources.

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics, or econometrics are prerequisites for the M.S. degree programs. Econometrics, intermediate macroeconomics, and linear algebra are recommended. Any student accepted into the M.S. program who has not met these prerequisites will take coursework to fulfill the requirements, identified through consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), in addition to the 35-hour requirements.

Curriculum Requirements. M.S. degree programs require 35 credit hours: a minimum of 29 hours of coursework, 3 hours of AAEC 7000, and 3 hours of AAEC 7300 (taken in the final semester). Additional requirements: GRSC 7001 GradFIRST (1 hour) and GRSC 7770 Teaching Seminar (1 hour). *All M.S. students must register for the department seminar course, AAEC 8010, every semester. All students who receive a departmental assistantship must register for a total of 18 credit hours each semester they are funded.*

Good Standing for M.S. Students. Several milestones must be achieved by the student in a timely manner during pursuit of the degree. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to departmental resources. To remain in good standing, M.S. students must:

1. Maintain good academic standing under the Graduate School policy.
2. During the first two semesters of the M.S. program, earn a grade of C or better in each of AAEC 6580, AAEC 6580L, AAEC 6610, AAEC 6610L, AAEC 6590, and AAEC 6620 and earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 across those courses.
3. Form an advisory committee and submit the Advisory Committee form by March 30 of Year 1, and submit the proposed program of study by April 30 of Year 1.
4. Complete all required coursework, training, seminars, and other curriculum requirements for the degree.
5. Make satisfactory and sustained progress on the thesis and draft journal article and successfully complete the thesis seminar and final oral examination.
6. Satisfactorily complete all assigned assistantship responsibilities during each semester in which the student holds an assistantship. Students holding departmental assistantships should expect to be assigned teaching-assistant responsibilities for at least two semesters.

Advisory Committee. M.S. students must have an approved advisory committee consisting of at least three members. The committee chair, who serves as the major professor, and at least one other member must be members of the AAEC graduate faculty; the other member may come from any department within the University of Georgia. If the student has co-major professors, two additional members are required. The advisory committee form must be submitted to the Graduate School by March 30 of Year 1. Final approval of the committee is made by the Graduate School. Selection of the advisory committee is based on the student's expressed interests and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with faculty research programs during their first semester. The Director of Graduate Studies is available for consultation; however, it is the student's responsibility to identify a faculty member willing to serve as major professor and to form an advisory committee.

Changes in the major professor or advisory committee must be coordinated with the Director of Graduate Studies and submitted to the Graduate School when required. When a major professor leaves the university, is unable to

continue serving, or the advising relationship can no longer continue, the Director of Graduate Studies will work with the student and faculty involved to identify an appropriate path forward. No faculty member is required to accept or continue serving as a student's major professor.

Program of Study (POS). A student's program of study and thesis are developed in consultation with the advisory committee. The program of study must show how the degree requirements will be met and must be submitted no later than April 30 of Year 1. The program of study is submitted to the Graduate School in DegreeWorks and is subject to approval by the advisory committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the dean of the Graduate School. All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by your advisory committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks.

M.S. students take a fixed set of courses during their first semester. After that semester, students must be advised by their major professor before being cleared to register. While the advisory committee will provide guidance on initiating a thesis and conducting the research, responsibility for completing the thesis rests with the graduate student. All M.S. students must give an oral presentation in the department on their thesis research before graduation, typically as part of the final defense. The thesis seminar and final defense must be scheduled with the Graduate Program Administrator at least three weeks in advance.

M.S. Degree in Agricultural & Applied Economics Requirements

A. Theory and quantitative requirements (20 hours)

AAEC 6580-6580L	Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I (<i>4 hours</i>)
AAEC 6590-6590L	Microeconomics: Theory with Applications II (<i>4 hours</i>)
AAEC 6610-6610L	Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics (<i>4 hours</i>)
AAEC 6620	Applied Econometrics (<i>4 hours</i>)
AAEC 6960	International Agricultural Trade (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 8010	Seminar (<i>1 hour</i>)

B. AAEC or ENVM electives 6000 level or above (9 hours minimum)

AAEC 6510	Land Economics (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 6710	Rural Economic Development and Growth (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 6870	Futures and Option Markets (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 7860	Natural Resource Economics I (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 8150	Experiment and Survey Design (<i>3 hours</i>)
AAEC 8700	Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis (<i>3 hours</i>)
ENVM 6060	Natural Resource Economics (<i>3 hours</i>)
ENVM 6150	Energy Economics (<i>3 hours</i>)
ENVM 6800	Water Resource Economics and Management (<i>3 hours</i>)

C. AAEC 8010 Seminar Program each semester (only 1 hour can be listed on the POS), including successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.

D. Successful completion of GRSC 7001 GradFIRST Seminar (*1 hour*) and GRSC 7770 Graduate Teaching Seminar (*1 hour*)

E. All applicable UGA language course requirements for international students.

F. AAEC 7000 (3 hours minimum)

G. AAEC 7300 (3 hours minimum)

H. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of the first academic semester.

I. Preparation of an acceptable thesis.

J. Preparation of a draft article for publication in an academic journal.

K. Presentation of a thesis seminar.

L. Passing of a final oral examination.

M.S. Degree in Environmental Economics Requirements

- A. Theory and quantitative requirements (20 hours)
 - AAEC 6580-6580L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications I (*4 hours*)
 - AAEC 6590-6590L Microeconomics: Theory with Applications II (*4 hours*)
 - AAEC 6610-6610L Quantitative Techniques in Agricultural Economics (*4 hours*)
 - AAEC 6620 Applied Econometrics (*4 hours*)
 - ENVM 6060 Natural Resource Economics (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 8010 Seminar (*1 hour*)
- B. AAEC or ENVM electives 6000 level or above (9 hours minimum)
 - AAEC 6510 Land Economics (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 6710 Rural Economic Development and Growth (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 6870 Futures and Option Markets (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 6960 International Agricultural Trade (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 7860 Natural Resource Economics I (*3 hours*) (preferred elective for EE M.S.)
 - AAEC 8150 Experiment and Survey Design (*3 hours*)
 - AAEC 8700 Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis (*3 hours*)
 - ENVM 6150 Energy Economics (*3 hours*)
 - ENVM 6800 Water Resource Economics and Management (*3 hours*)
- C. AAEC 8010 Seminar Program each semester (only 1 hour can be listed on the POS), including successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.
- D. Successful completion of GRSC 7001 GradFIRST Seminar (*1 hour*) and GRSC 7770 Graduate Teaching Seminar (*1 hour*)
- E. All applicable UGA language course requirements for international students.
- F. AAEC 7000 (3 hours minimum)
- G. AAEC 7300 (3 hours minimum)
- H. Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of your first academic semester.
- I. Preparation of an acceptable thesis.
- J. Preparation of a draft article for publication in an academic journal.
- K. Presentation of a thesis seminar.
- L. Passing of a final oral examination.

Checklist for M.S. Degree

Students are responsible for meeting the deadlines posted by the Graduate School.

Year 1 Spring

- 1___ Form an advisory committee and submit [Advisory Committee \(M.S.\)](#) form (**March 30 Deadline**).
At a minimum, you must have a major professor plus two additional members. If you have co-major professors, you still need two additional members. Your major professor and at least one other committee member must be members of the AAEC graduate faculty.
- 2___ Submit your Program of Study (POS) form in DegreeWorks to the Graduate School (**April 30 Deadline**).
Consult with your advisory committee for guidance on electives before submitting the form. The Graduate Program Administrator (GPA) can help with the form submission. Reminder: All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by your advisory committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks.

Final Semester. All steps have firm deadlines. Check [Grad School Important Deadlines](#)..

- 3___ Apply for graduation in Athena using the [Application for Graduation](#) form.
Due Date: Approximately the first week of the semester.
- 4___ Submit to the Graduate School your information for graduation (form G120 in GradStatus).
Due Date: Approximately 2 months from the beginning of the semester

Question - What if I apply for graduation (Steps 3 and 4) but then decide to graduate in a later semester? For example, if I planned for Spring but switch to Summer? *This is fine and happens often. Inform the Graduate Program Administrator that you will delay your graduation. Skip steps 5–11. In the new semester you plan to graduate (e.g., Summer), repeat steps 3 and 4 and continue with 5–11.*

- 5___ Electronically submit to the Graduate School your thesis for [ETD Format Check](#).
Due Date: Approximately 6 weeks before the end of the semester.
- 6___ Set date and time of thesis defense with advisory committee and notify the Graduate Program Administrator (GPA). The GPA will submit the official notice (G140) to the Graduate School, reserve a room, and notify the department.
Due Date: At least two weeks prior to the defense. Your defense must occur at least one week before the ["Final date for receipt"](#) of all materials required for graduation.
- 7___ Submit thesis to advisory committee.
Due Date: At least two weeks before your defense.
- 8___ Successfully hold thesis seminar and pass final oral and thesis defense.
Due Date: At least one week before the final date set by the Graduate School for receipt of all required materials for graduation. Approximately three weeks before the end of the semester.
- 9___ Submit the completed [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\) Submission Approval](#) form.
Due Date: Approximately two weeks before the end of the semester.
- 10___ Complete exit survey and interview with department head.
- 11___ Return your office key to the Graduate Program Administrator, if applicable.

9. Ph.D. Degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural and Applied Economics prepares students for research, teaching, and leadership careers in academia, government, and the private sector by developing advanced expertise in economic theory, quantitative methods, and original applied research addressing important economic issues in agriculture, food systems, the environment, natural resources, and economic development.

Prerequisites. Calculus, intermediate microeconomics, and probability, statistics, or econometrics are prerequisites for the Ph.D. program. Master's-level microeconomics, econometrics, and macroeconomics, along with mathematical statistics and linear algebra, are recommended. ECON 8000, Mathematical Analysis for Economics (Ph.D. Math Camp), is required and typically begins two weeks before regular fall-semester classes. Incoming Ph.D. students should arrange to arrive on campus no later than August 1 to attend ECON 8000.

Curriculum Requirements. The Ph.D. degree requires 43 hours of coursework, plus a minimum of three hours of research (AAEC 9000) and three hours of dissertation credits (AAEC 9300), and preparation of an acceptable dissertation. A minimum of 60 credit hours is required for graduation. The additional 11 hours may come from additional research hours and/or additional graduate-level coursework at the 8000-level or higher. Additional requirements: GRSC 7001 GradFIRST (1 hour) and GRSC 7770 Teaching Seminar (1 hour). *All students who receive a departmental assistantship must be registered for a total of 18 credit hours each semester they are funded. All Ph.D. students must register for the department seminar course, AAEC 8010, each semester until advancing to candidacy.*

Good Standing for Ph.D. Students. Several milestones must be achieved by the student in a timely manner during pursuit of the degree. Students who fail to remain in good standing throughout their degree program may lose funding and/or access to other departmental resources. To remain in good standing, Ph.D. students must:

1. Maintain good academic standing under the Graduate School policy.
2. During the first two semesters of the Ph.D. program, earn a grade of C or better in each of ECON 8000, ECON 8010, ECON 8020, ECON 8070, and ECON 8080 and earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 across those courses.
3. Complete all required coursework, training, seminars, and other curriculum requirements for the degree.
4. Identify a second-year paper advisor by the end of AAEC 8350 and complete a manuscript approved by the second-year paper advisor before the start of the second summer of residence.
5. Pass the written comprehensive qualifying examinations in econometrics and microeconomics within the permitted two attempts for each examination.
6. Establish a permanent advisory committee by the end of Fall of Year 2.
7. Successfully complete the dissertation prospectus seminar and oral comprehensive examination by the end of Spring of Year 3.
8. Make satisfactory and sustained progress on the dissertation and other requirements for degree completion.
9. Satisfactorily complete all assigned assistantship responsibilities during each semester in which the student holds an assistantship. Students holding departmental assistantships should expect to be assigned teaching-assistant responsibilities for at least two semesters.

Second-Year Paper. Ph.D. students will enroll in a sequence of three courses designed to develop publishable research by the end of their second year in the program. AAEC 8350 is taken in Spring of Year 1, AAEC 8351 in Summer of Year 1, and AAEC 8352 in Fall of Year 2. Students must declare a second-year paper advisor by the end of AAEC 8350. Working with one or more faculty members, each student must prepare a manuscript for

publication through the course sequence. The manuscript must be approved by the student's second-year paper advisor before the start of the student's second summer of residence.

Advisory Committee. During the fall semester of Year 1, the department will assign each Ph.D. student an initial advisory committee consisting of three members of the AAEC graduate committee. One member will be designated as chair for Graduate School and administrative purposes. The initial advisory committee will provide early academic guidance, review the student's planned coursework and program of study, monitor the student's initial progress, and help the student become familiar with faculty research programs and potential areas of specialization. Assignment to an initial advisory committee does not represent a commitment by the chair or committee members to serve on the student's permanent dissertation advisory committee. Students are responsible for working with the Graduate Program Administrator to submit the Advisory Committee form to the Graduate School no later than March 30 of Year 1.

As students develop their research interests and become familiar with the faculty, they are responsible for identifying a faculty member willing to serve as major professor and forming a permanent advisory committee appropriate for their proposed dissertation research. The permanent advisory committee must consist of at least three members. The committee chair, who serves as the major professor, and at least one other member must be members of the AAEC graduate faculty; the remaining member may come from any department within the University of Georgia. If the student has two co-major professors, two additional members are required. Selection of the permanent advisory committee is based on the student's research interests and the availability and willingness of faculty to serve. The Director of Graduate Studies is available for consultation; however, it is the student's responsibility to identify a major professor and form the permanent advisory committee. To remain in good standing, the student must establish a permanent advisory committee and submit a revised Advisory Committee form by the end of the fall semester of Year 2. Final approval of all advisory committees is made by the Graduate School.

Changes in the major professor or advisory committee must be coordinated with the Director of Graduate Studies and submitted to the Graduate School when required. When a major professor leaves the university, is unable to continue serving, or the advising relationship can no longer continue, the Director of Graduate Studies will work with the student and faculty involved to identify an appropriate path forward. No faculty member is required to accept or continue serving as a student's major professor.

Program of Study. In consultation with the initial advisory committee, each Ph.D. student must develop and submit an initial program of study by April 30 of Year 1. The initial program of study identifies the courses the student expects to use to satisfy the degree requirements and provides an early plan for completing the required specializations. It may be revised as the student's research interests develop and additional courses are selected. The program of study is submitted to the Graduate School in DegreeWorks and is subject to approval by the advisory committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the dean of the Graduate School.

After forming the permanent advisory committee, the student must meet with the committee to review the initial program of study, discuss the student's research direction and areas of specialization, and identify any necessary changes. A revised program of study approved by the permanent advisory committee must be submitted by the end of Fall of Year 2. All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by your advisory committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks. The student must have a current, approved program of study on file before the dissertation prospectus seminar and oral comprehensive examination may be scheduled. Any subsequent change to the program of study must be approved by the major professor and advisory committee, and an updated program of study must be submitted as required.

Ph.D. students take a fixed set of courses during the first three semesters of the program. After that, students must be advised by their major professor before being cleared to register each semester. The student is responsible for consulting with the advisory committee to plan the program of study and select a dissertation topic. While the

advisory committee will provide guidance on initiating the dissertation and conducting the research, responsibility for completing the research and dissertation rests with the graduate student.

Examinations for the Ph.D.

Written Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations. All Ph.D. students must pass written examinations in econometrics and microeconomics within one year of entering the program. The examinations are administered during the summer following the first year of study. Part-time students who have not completed the required coursework may receive an approved deferral of the examination schedule. Students must take the econometrics examination at the first opportunity after earning a grade of C or better in ECON 8070 and ECON 8080, or equivalent courses, and must take the microeconomics examination at the first opportunity after earning a grade of C or better in ECON 8010 and ECON 8020, or equivalent courses. The examinations are typically offered one week apart during the summer semester, with second attempts, if needed, offered before the fall semester begins. A separate departmental examining committee of three members appointed by the department head develops and grades each examination. Examinations are graded Pass or Fail. The student will receive written notice of the result within approximately two weeks, and the result will also be provided to the Director of Graduate Studies and department head. A student may attempt each examination no more than twice. A student who does not pass both examinations within the permitted attempts will be dismissed from the Ph.D. program by written notice and may appeal the decision in accordance with the current Graduate School Appeals policy.

Dissertation Prospectus and Oral Comprehensive Qualifying Examination

The student must present the dissertation prospectus in a departmental seminar and defend it before the advisory committee. The seminar provides an opportunity for faculty and student input that may improve the research program and requires the student to demonstrate a viable pathway to complete a satisfactory dissertation on an appropriate timeline. The seminar and oral comprehensive examination must be scheduled through the Graduate Program Administrator at least three weeks in advance, and the Graduate Program Administrator will send the required notification to the Graduate School. The oral examination evaluates the student's ability to apply economic theory, quantitative methods, and knowledge from the student's areas of specialization to the proposed research and broader field. The advisory committee may pass the student, fail the student, or require specified remedial work. After the student completes any required remedial work, the advisory committee may schedule one oral re-examination. Approval of the dissertation prospectus and successful completion of the oral comprehensive examination are required for admission to candidacy.

Admission to Candidacy

Application for admission to candidacy is a certification by the student's department that the student has demonstrated ability to do acceptable doctoral work in the chosen field of study and that:

1. All required coursework and departmental milestones required before candidacy, including the second-year paper, have been completed.
2. The final program of study has been approved and is on file with the Graduate School.
3. The student has received passing grades on the econometrics and microeconomics written comprehensive qualifying examinations.
4. The student has successfully completed the dissertation prospectus seminar and oral comprehensive examination.
5. The student has achieved an overall graduate GPA of 3.0 or better.
6. The permanent advisory committee is confirmed, including any approved changes in membership, and all members have agreed to serve.

7. The student has successfully completed the Institutional Review Board online training module related to Social and Behavioral Research.
8. The student has successfully completed the Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.

Final Oral Examination/Defense

The student must present a departmental seminar as part of the final defense. This presentation is the culmination of the degree and provides a detailed review of the student's dissertation research, followed by a fair but rigorous examination by members of the academic community. The seminar and final oral examination should not exceed three hours in total. If the student does not pass, the advisory committee may permit one re-examination. The student must notify the Graduate Program Administrator at least three weeks before the final oral examination and defense.

Ph.D. in Agricultural & Applied Economics Requirements

Course Requirements (31 hours)

AAEC 8010	Seminar (1 hour)
AAEC 8350	Second Year Paper I (1 hour)
AAEC 8351	Research and Professional Development (1 hour)
AAEC 8352	Research and Professional Development (1 hour)
AAEC 8810	Causal Inference and Machine Learning (3 hours)
AAEC 8610	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Economists (3 hours)
ECON 8000	Mathematical Analysis for Economics (3 hours)
ECON 8010	Microeconomic Theory I (3 hours)
ECON 8020	Microeconomic Theory II (3 hours)
ECON 8070	Statistics for Econometrics (3 hours)
ECON 8080	Introduction to Econometrics (3 hours)
ECON 8110	Econometrics I (3 hours)
ECON 8120	Econometrics II (3 hours)

Specialization Requirements (12 hours) - Complete a minimum of 6 credit hours in two specializations, for a total of 12 credit hours. Courses cannot be counted towards two specializations.

Specialization – Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

AAEC 7860	Natural Resource and Environmental Economics I (3 hours)
AAEC 8100	Nonmarket Economic Valuation Techniques and Applications (3 hours)
AAEC 8700	Advanced Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis (3 hours)

Specialization – Food and Health Economics

AAEC 8140	Consumer Demand Theory (3 hours)
AAEC 8260	Advanced Nutrition Policy Analytics (3 hours)
AAEC 8730	Advanced International Development and Rural Economies (3 hours)

Specialization – Agricultural Markets, Trade, and Policy

AAEC 8080	Production Economics: Theory and Applications (3 hours)
AAEC 8500	Price Analysis (3 hours)
AAEC 8730	Advanced International Development and Rural Economies (3 hours)
ECON 8040	Macroeconomic Theory I (3 hours)

Specialization – Behavioral and Experimental Economics

AAEC 8100	Nonmarket Economic Valuation Techniques and Applications (3 hours)
AAEC 8150	Survey Design and Experimental Economics (3 hours)
AAEC 8160	Experimental and Behavioral Economics (3 hours)

Other requirements

AAEC 9000 Doctoral Research (3 hours minimum) and AAEC 9300 Doctoral Dissertation (3 hours minimum)

GRSC 7001 GradFIRST Seminar (1 hour) and GRSC 7770 Graduate Teaching Seminar (1 hour)

All applicable UGA language course requirements for international students.

Successful completion of the [Institutional Review Board online training module](#) related to Social and Behavioral Research before the end of the first academic semester.

Successful completion of Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop.

Checklist for Agricultural and Applied Economics Ph.D. Degree

Students are responsible for meeting ALL deadlines posted by the Graduate School

Year 1 – Spring

- 1 ____ Meet with your initial advisory committee to discuss academic preparation, planned coursework, research interests, preliminary program of study, and progress towards identifying a permanent advisory committee. Submit [Advisory Committee \(PhD\)](#) form (**March 30 Deadline**).
- 2 ____ Develop an initial program of study with your initial advisory committee and submit it in DegreeWorks (**April 30 Deadline**). The initial program of study should identify the courses you expect to use to complete the required coursework and specialization requirements.

Summer of Year 1

- 3 ____ Pass written comprehensive qualifying examinations in econometrics and microeconomics.

Fall of Year 2 (or Earlier)

- 4 ____ Form your permanent advisory committee and submit the [Advisory Committee \(PhD\)](#) form.
At a minimum, you must have a major professor plus two additional members. If you have co-major professors, you still need two additional members. Your major professor and at least one other committee member must be AAEC graduate faculty.
- 5 ____ Meet with your permanent advisory committee to review your research direction, areas of specialization, and initial program of study. Submit a revised program of study in DegreeWorks reflecting the courses approved by your permanent advisory committee before the end of the semester. *Reminder: All deviations from your Program of Study must be preapproved by your advisory committee, and a revised Program of Study must be submitted in DegreeWorks.*

Spring of Year 2

- 6 ____ Successfully complete all second-year paper requirements for AAEC 8350, AAEC 8351, and AAEC 8352.

Year 3 Spring (or Earlier). Complete these steps in the listed order.

Successfully conduct **Dissertation Prospectus** and pass **Oral Comprehensive Exam**.

- 7.1. Schedule the dissertation prospectus and oral comprehensive examination with your advisory committee. Notify the Graduate Program Administrator of the date and time at least three weeks in advance. The Graduate Program Administrator will reserve a room and submit the required form (G118) to the Graduate School.
- 7.2. Conduct the dissertation prospectus seminar and oral comprehensive examination. The Graduate School will then initiate form G168 for committee approval.
- 7.3. Submit the completed application for [Admission to Candidacy for Doctoral Students](#) form.

Your Final Semester. All steps have firm deadlines. Check *Grad School Important Deadlines*.

8___ Apply for graduation (through Athena) with the [Application for Graduation](#) form.

Due Date: Approximately the first week of the semester.

9___ Submit to the Graduate School your information for graduation (form G120 in GradStatus).

Due Date: Approximately 2 months from the beginning of the semester

Question - What if I apply for graduation (Steps 8 and 9) but then decide to graduate in a later semester? For example, if I planned for Spring but switch to Summer? *This is fine and happens often. Inform the Graduate Program Administrator that you will delay your graduation. Skip steps 10-16. In the new semester you plan to graduate (e.g., Summer), repeat steps 8 and 9 and continue with 10-16.*

10___ Electronically submit to the Graduate School your dissertation for a **format check**.

Due Date: Approximately 6 weeks before the end of the semester.

11___ Set date and time of **dissertation defense** with advisory committee and notify the GPA who will submit the official notice (G119) to the Graduate School, reserve a room, and notify the department.

Due Date: At least three weeks prior to the defense. Your defense must occur at least one week before the ["Final date for receipt"](#) of all materials required for graduation.

12___ Submit dissertation to advisory committee.

Due Date: At least two weeks before your defense.

13___ Successfully hold dissertation seminar and pass final oral exam and dissertation defense.

Due Date: At least one week before the final date set by the Graduate School for receipt of all required materials for graduation. Approximately three weeks before the end of the semester.

14___ Submit the completed [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation \(ETD\) Submission Approval](#) form.

Due Date: Approximately two weeks before the end of the semester.

15___ Complete the exit survey and exit interview with the department head.

16___ Return your office key to the Graduate Program Administrator, if applicable.

10. Funding and Professional Development Opportunities

Graduate Assistantships

The department may offer research, teaching, and other graduate assistantships based on available funding, program needs, and student qualifications. Assistantships are intended to support the department's teaching, research, Extension, and service missions while contributing to the student's professional development. An assistantship is both an educational opportunity and a university employment appointment.

Appointment and Duties

- Assistantship appointments are made for a specific period and are governed by the written offer or reappointment letter.
- Duties are assigned by the department head or designee and the assistantship supervisor and may include research, teaching, grading, course support, Extension, data management, administrative, or other activities consistent with the appointment.
- The expected weekly work commitment is stated in the appointment letter. Students must communicate with the supervisor about schedules, deadlines, absences, and competing responsibilities.
- Students must complete required training and comply with all university policies applicable to the assignment.

Enrollment and Academic Eligibility

Students receiving a departmental assistantship must register for 18 credit hours during each funded semester, remain in academic and program good standing, and maintain eligibility for the tuition waiver and appointment. A student considering a course withdrawal or other enrollment change must consult the DGS and GPA before making the change because falling below the required enrollment may result in loss of the tuition waiver or assistantship eligibility.

Performance, Renewal, and Nonrenewal

Graduate assistant performance will be evaluated by the immediate supervisor and monitored by the department head or designee. Students should receive feedback identifying strengths, deficiencies, and expectations for improvement. Renewal is not automatic and depends on available funding, departmental needs, satisfactory academic progress, completion of degree milestones, professional conduct, and satisfactory assistantship performance.

Failure to meet academic requirements, fulfill assigned duties, comply with applicable policy, communicate appropriately, or maintain professional standards may result in corrective action, nonrenewal, or termination of the assistantship. Academic standing and employment performance are related but distinct. An employment action does not necessarily constitute dismissal from the degree program, and an academic action does not replace any employment process required by university policy.

Travel Awards to Present Research at Academic Conferences

Presenting a research paper or poster at an academic conference is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable feedback on research and network with students and faculty from other institutions. AAEC students may apply for departmental financial support to help defray expenses for academic-conference travel. Not all applications will be approved because departmental funds are limited and travel is subject to department, university, and state policies. To be considered for travel support, a graduate student must, before submitting an abstract to a conference, (a) obtain permission from the major professor to submit the abstract and (b) contact the department head to ask whether

departmental financial support may be available if the abstract is accepted. Within one week after receiving notice of acceptance, the student must notify the major professor and department head by email. The department head will communicate any additional steps and deadlines required for consideration of travel funding. Failure to complete these steps in a timely manner may result in the department declining to provide support or being unable to reimburse expenses because of noncompliance with university or state travel policies.

Research Collaboration, Authorship, and Data

Students engaged in collaborative research should discuss responsibilities, authorship expectations, data access, documentation, and publication plans with faculty collaborators early in the project. Students must comply with university requirements governing research integrity, intellectual property, data security, and the use of human-participant or other restricted data.

Professional Development

The department, university, and allied academic organizations provide professional-development opportunities throughout a student's graduate studies. Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively and proactively. Examples include:

- Department research seminars, thesis and dissertation seminars, workshops, and visiting-speaker events including the J.W. Fanning Lecture and the Conner Connects awards ceremony and reception.
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Student Association (GSA) activities and leadership opportunities.
- Teaching development through GRSC 7770, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and teaching-related certificates and workshops.
- Research and communication development through GradFIRST, Graduate School programs, the Three Minute Thesis competition, writing support, and responsible-conduct-of-research training.
- Career development through the department's placement activities, professional associations, conferences, alumni, and the UGA Career Center.
- Select professional associations
 - [Agricultural and Applied Economics Association](#)
 - [American Economic Association](#)
 - [Association of Environmental and Resource Economists](#)
 - [Southern Agricultural Economics Association](#)
 - [Southern Economic Association](#)
- Select employment posting boards
 - [Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Job Board](#)
 - [American Economic Association JOE Listings](#)
 - [European Economic Association](#)
 - [USAJOBS](#)

11. UGA Resources and Links

The links below are maintained by the responsible UGA office and should be used for current policies, deadlines, forms, and services.

Graduate School and Degree Completion

Graduate School: Central information for prospective and current graduate students.

Graduate Policies: Official links to current Graduate School policies.

Important Dates and Deadlines: Current graduation, candidacy, thesis, and dissertation deadlines.

Graduate School Forms: Current forms and instructions.

Theses and Dissertations: Formatting, submission, and ETD guidance.

Graduate Funding and Awards: Assistantships, fellowships, awards, and travel grants.

GradFIRST: Graduate professional-development seminar information.

Academic, Research, and Professional Support

V-Lab: Virtual access to software (e.g., ArcGIS, SPSS, MATLAB, RStudio, STATA)

UGA Libraries: Research collections, data services, consultations, and study spaces.

Writing Support: Writing consultations for graduate students.

UGA Career Center: Career exploration, job searches, resumes, interviews, and employer connections.

Center for Teaching and Learning: Teaching development and instructional support.

Student Support and Well-Being

Accessibility and Testing: Academic accommodation and accessibility services.

Student Care and Outreach: Support for students experiencing personal or academic difficulties.

University Health Center: Medical and wellness services.

Counseling and Psychiatric Services: Mental-health services and crisis support.

International Student Life: Programs and support for international students.

Office of Global Engagement: Immigration, global programs, and international education resources.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty policy and process.

Student Conduct: Student conduct policy and process.

Equal Opportunity Office: Nondiscrimination, anti-harassment, and related resources.

UGA Police and Emergency Information: Campus safety and emergency assistance.

UGA Transportation and Parking Services: Campus bus and parking information.

Questions About This Handbook

Questions about degree requirements, forms, or deadlines should be directed to the Graduate Program Administrator or Director of Graduate Studies. Questions about assistantship assignments should be directed to the department head or DGS. Current contact information is available on the department website.