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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Establish a new option under the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics degree.

**SPONSOR:** Professor Emeritus John B. Braden, Acting Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics, 3-5501, jbb@illinois.edu

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Professor F. William Simmons, Assistant Dean, College of ACES, 3-3380, fsimmons@illinois.edu

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Proposal to add a non-thesis, coursework based option for the M.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics.

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Department offers the opportunity for qualified M.S. students to work directly toward the Ph.D. degree by taking more advanced courses. On occasion, after 3 or more semesters of advanced work, students leave the program prior to embarking on a dissertation. Admission to this option will be allowed only to students already enrolled in the graduate program who have a substantial body of doctoral-level coursework but will not continue on to the Ph.D.. The coursework-based M.S. degree will appropriately recognize their intellectual achievements while in the program.

### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed: None. No additional students will be admitted into the graduate program and no additional courses will be taught.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.): None
- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments: None
- d. Impact on the University Library (*A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.*): None.
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: None

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2013 or as soon thereafter as possible.

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:** Option A is unchanged from the current program. Option B is proposed.

**Agricultural and Applied Economics  
Master of Science**

**Option A**

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Required Hours</b>
ACE 500, ACE 592-Microeconomics, or ECON 500	4
6 hours in quantitative and research methods from departmental list (these do not count toward the 500 level course requirement)	6
<b>Thesis Hours Required–ACE 599 (min/max applied toward degree):</b>	8 max
<b>Total Hours</b>	32 (only 2 hours of ACE 566 may count towards total)
<b>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:</b>	8 at the 500 level, not including 566, 599 or independent study
<b>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:</b>	12
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
<b>Minimum GPA:</b>	3.0

**Option B**

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>Required Hours</b>
24 hours selected from the ACE doctoral core sequence, including at least 12 hours in applied economic theory and 8 hours in quantitative methods	24
<b>Thesis Hours Required–ACE 599 (min/max applied toward degree):</b>	0 max
<b>Total Hours</b>	32 (including not more than 2 hours in ACE 566)
<b>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:</b>	20 at the 500 level, not including ACE 566, 599 and independent study
<b>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:</b>	20
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
<b>Minimum GPA:</b>	3.0

The M.S. offers considerable flexibility. Students using the degree as a foundation for a doctorate emphasize economic theory and analytical research tools. Students seeking the terminal master's degree focus their study on the concepts and analytical techniques used by analysts and managers in industries, governments, and other organizations.

Students must earn a 3.0 (A = 4.0) GPA for a minimum of 32 graduate hours of credit. M.S. students entering the ACE graduate program will be admitted only to Option A. For Option A, a thesis is prepared under the supervision of a faculty advisory committee. The thesis is defended in a formal oral examination, which usually coincides with an open departmental seminar, administered by the thesis committee. Option B requires advanced coursework in lieu of a thesis. Option B is available only to students already enrolled in Option A of the ACE M.S. program or in the ACE Ph.D. program. Application for admission to Option B is by petition to the Department after at least two semesters of graduate coursework have been completed.

**CLEARANCES:** (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval) - - These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges, add lines.)

Signatures:

MR Grossman, Acting Head  
Unit Representative:

11-13-2012  
Date:

[Signature]  
College Representative:

11-13-12  
Date:

[Signature]  
Graduate College Representative:

12-14-12  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Educational Policy Committee Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics  
College of Agricultural, Consumer and  
Environmental Sciences



326 Mumford Hall, MC-710  
1301 West Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801-3605

December 6, 2012

Dr. Andrea Golato  
Associate Dean  
Graduate College  
204 Coble Hall, MC-322

**Re: ACE Revision to M.S. Degree**

Dear Dean Golato:

This responds to your message of November 30 concerning the Department of ACE's proposal to establish a non-thesis option under its M.S. program:

- (1) A revised version of the proposal, substituting "NA" for "0" in the requirement for thesis credit, accompanies this letter. The revision appears on p. 2. Given the minor nature of this change, I hope that the signature page from the original proposal will suffice.
- (2) As I noted in email dated November 30 and copied to you: There is one point on which the subcommittee's interpretation seems to differ from the proposal's intent. This concerns the conditions for admission to the program. The interpretation given in your message is that option B is available only for students in the doctoral program who do not complete it. However, we also admit students to M.S. option A and allow them to begin taking doctoral courses with the prospect of transferring into the doctoral program if certain benchmarks are achieved. In cases where those benchmarks are not achieved, but advanced courses are taken and satisfactory performance in those courses is achieved, we believe option B should also be available. This is allowed by the current language of our proposal.
- (3) The subcommittee noted that clear information about this option needs to be provided on the Department's website. We hereby express our intention to do so. However, there is no place on the petition form for procedural information such as this.

I hope this information is responsive to the subcommittee's concerns and will allow the proposal to move forward.

Sincerely yours,



John B. Braden  
Professor Emeritus  
Acting Director of Graduate Studies

Xc. P. Ellinger, A. Winter-Nelson, F.W. Simmons, P. Splittstoesser

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.13.26

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



January 11, 2013

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the Graduate College and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish a new non-thesis option in the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics.

This proposal has been approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences' Courses and Curriculum Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kristi A. Kuntz'.

Kristi A. Kuntz  
Assistant Provost

KAK/njh

Enclosures

c: J. Braden  
A. Edwards  
P. Ellinger  
A. Golato  
M. Lowry  
F. Simmons

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

RECEIVED  
DEC 20 2012  
OFFICE of the PROVOST

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall  
801 South Wright Street  
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive Committee

December 14, 2012

2012-2013 Members

Debasish Dutta, *Chair*

*Members*

Barry Ackerson

David Ceperley

Lin-Feng Chen

Kent Choquette

Jennifer Cole

Brooke Elliott

Susan Garnsey

David Hays

Christine Jenkins

Ashleigh Jones

Tina Mattila

Ramona Oswald

Yoon Pak

Joseph Rosenblatt

Alex Winter-Nelson

Assata Zerai

Kristi Kuntz  
Office of the Provost  
207 Swanlund MC-304

Dear Kristi,

Enclosed is the proposal entitled "Establish a New (Non-Thesis) Option Under the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics Degree." The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

Andrea Golato  
Associate Dean, Graduate College

C: J. Braden  
P. Ellinger  
M. Lowry  
F. Simmons

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences

Academic Programs  
128 Mumford Hall, MC-710  
1301 West Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801



RECEIVED  
NOV 15 2012  
GRADUATE COLLEGE

November 13, 2012

Mary Lowry, Director  
Academic Programs & Policy  
Graduate College  
222 Coble Hall  
Campus MC-322

Dear Mary:

I am writing to request the Graduate College's approval for the following new curricular proposal, which was recently reviewed and approved by the College of ACES Courses and Curricula Committee:

- ***Establish a New (Non-Thesis) Option Under the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics Degree***

Supporting documentation from the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics is enclosed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your reply.

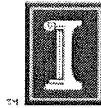
Sincerely,

F. William Simmons  
Assistant Dean, College of ACES

FWS/rhc

cc: P. N. Ellinger  
ACE C&C File





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**Senate Educational Policy Committee  
Proposal Check Sheet**

**PROPOSAL TITLE** (Same as on proposal): Establish a New (Non-Thesis) Option Under the Master of Science in Agricultural and Applied Economics Degree

**PROPOSAL TYPE** (Please select all that apply below):

A.  **Program and degree proposals**

1. This proposal is for a graduate program or degree

Yes     No

2. **Degree** proposal (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.)

New degree — please name the new degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing degree — please name the existing degree to be revised:  
**M.S. Degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics**

3. **Major** proposal (disciplinary focus, e.g., Mathematics)

New major — please name the new major: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing major — please name the existing major to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Concentration** proposal (e.g. Financial Planning)

New concentration — please name the new concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing concentration — please name the existing concentration to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Minor** proposal (e.g. Cinema Studies)

New minor — please name the new minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision of an existing minor — please name the existing minor to be revised: \_\_\_\_\_

6.  Proposal for renaming an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

degree       major       concentration       minor

Please provide the current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

7.  Proposal for terminating an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

Please name the existing degree, major, concentration, or minor: \_\_\_\_\_

8.  Proposal for a multi-institutional degree between Illinois (UIUC) and a foreign institution

Please name the existing Illinois degree or program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please name the partnering institution: \_\_\_\_\_

B.  **Proposal for renaming existing academic units** (college, school, department, or program)

Please provide the unit's current name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the unit's proposed new name: \_\_\_\_\_

C.  **Proposal for reorganizing existing units** (colleges, schools, departments, or programs)

Change in status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department) — please indicate current unit name including status: \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer an existing unit

Please provide the current unit's name and home: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the new home for the unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B)

Please provide the name and college of unit one to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the name and college of unit two to be merged: \_\_\_\_\_

Terminate an existing unit — please provide the current unit's name and status: \_\_\_\_\_

D.  **Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Please indicate the nature of the proposal: \_\_\_\_\_