

# **AEE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE**

**Degree Name and Prefix of Courses:**

**Agricultural and Extension Education (AEE)**

**Degree specializations in:**

**Agricultural Communication  
Agricultural Education in Public Schools  
Extension Education**



**Department of Human and Community Resource Development (HCRD)**

**(Revised: 2009)**

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## INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide assistance in planning Master's degree programs in AEE; however, one should be aware that it is not prescriptive. Students are afforded flexibility in designing programs to meet their needs and to satisfy the requirements of the degree. Each student and committee has a great deal of autonomy in designing a program to fit the needs of the student by selecting courses and minors (cognates) beyond the required courses.

*The Graduate School Handbook*, accessible at <http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/Handbook/Handbook.pdf> and the department's *AEE Graduate Program Handbook* [http://www.ag.ohiostate.edu/~hcrd/ag\\_education/grad/GRADUATE%20%20%20PROGRAM%20%20%20HANDBOOK.pdf](http://www.ag.ohiostate.edu/~hcrd/ag_education/grad/GRADUATE%20%20%20PROGRAM%20%20%20HANDBOOK.pdf) should be carefully studied. This Master's Degree Program Planning Guide does not repeat the procedures and policies specified in those documents. However, the guide is intended to assist in the planning of a Master's programs.

Students pursuing a Master's degree are expected to develop their individualized program (See p.9), with the aid of their adviser and committee, by the specified deadline. The committee will want to assure that the student has breadth and depth in core areas and an area of specialization (agricultural education in public schools, Extension or communication). Further, the committee will want to provide the necessary competencies to aid the student in achieving current and future career goals. A complete listing of required courses for the degree has not been compiled, since each program can be individualized. However, this document identifies those courses that are required. The Master's of Science (MS) degree programs will include a minimum of 45 quarter hours of graduate course work, including production of a thesis. The Master's of Education (MEd) degree will include a minimum of 50 quarter hours of graduate course work including a project.

### PHILOSOPHY ON GRADUATE EDUCATION

The foundation for graduate study in education and communication is the behavioral and social sciences and the history and philosophy of education and communication. Education and communication, as branches of knowledge and learning, are complementary with both drawing from similar philosophical, theoretical, and empirical foundations and each contributing to the study and practice of the other. Persons pursuing graduate study in AEE learn to understand and use knowledge grounded in the foundation disciplines for planning, executing, and evaluating instructional and communication programs.

The substance and process of graduate study must ensure that graduates:

- pursue knowledge and understanding as scholars,
- acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skill in one or more areas of specialization in education or communication,
- are appreciative of the role of systemic study and inquiry in the formulation and improvement of policy and programs, are discerning consumers of research, and have demonstrated competence in conducting and reporting research,
- exhibit openness and respect for diverse views and opinions, and
- seek new knowledge and experiences in the pursuit and commitment to lifelong learning.

## CORE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS STUDENTS

A Masters degree indicates that the person earning the degree has gained additional knowledge and the necessary skills in the field in order to engage in research and other scholarly activities, to teach, and to become practitioners. Candidates are expected to have a broad knowledge and specific expertise in an area of specialization. AEE offers a series of one-credit-hour seminars: AEE 795.07 in Autumn Quarter, AEE 795.08 in Winter Quarter, and 795.09 in Spring Quarter that all full-time students may find beneficial. The courses discuss the nature of scholarship in the disciplines, its dissemination and are a good way to get to know fellow students and faculty. They are listed as at “arranged times,” but might, for example, occur as a “brown-bag-lunch-seminar” on Fridays from 11-11:48 AM, and they are appropriate for students from any specialization. If graduate courses from another university are to be applied to a degree, these must be officially transferred (See: <http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/Depo/PDF/TransferCredit.pdf> )

### Required Courses in AEE

All students will complete the courses, or equivalents, in each of the following areas: Foundations, Research, Degree Program Core, and Electives.

<u>Foundations</u>	<u>3 Hours</u>
AEE 700 (Foundations of AEE)	3 Hours
<u>Research</u>	<u>3-6 Hours</u>
AEE 885 (For MS and MEd)	3 Hours
AEE 887 (For MS)	3 Hours
<u>Degree Program Core</u> (Three courses)	<u>9 Hours</u>
AEE 723 Strategic Planning in AEE	3 Hours
AEE 730 Teaching/Learning in AEE (Ag Comm students may substitute with AEE 840)	3 Hours
AEE 770 Program Evaluation in AEE	3 Hours
<u>Electives</u>	<u>4 Hours</u>

Students without course work or experience in the **international** arena are encouraged to include this (course, seminar, or study-abroad experience) in their program.

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

The Masters Degree programs in AEE encompass one of three areas of specialization:  
(A) Agricultural Communication,  
(B) Agricultural Education in the Public Schools, or  
(C) Extension Education.

The program of study for students is individualized to meet their needs and career goals. The graduate committee will assist students in selecting appropriate elective courses for their area of specialization; examples follow.

## **A. AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

The courses in this area of specialization are recommended to provide the necessary skills to aid current and future professionals in agricultural communication.

AEE	795.06	SEMINAR: COMMUNICATION (1-3)
COMM	806	CONTEMPORARY COMMUNICATION THEORY (5)

Students are recommended to select 9, but preferably 15, quarter hours of courses from the following:

COMM	602	MAGAZINE WRITING (5)
	604	ETHICS OF COMMUNICATION (4)
	606	DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASS MEDIA IN AMERICA (5)
620 or	813	PUBLIC OPINION IN COMMUNICATION (5)
	624	COMMUNICATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS (4)
	628	CONTEMPORARY PERSUASION THEORY (5)
	631	COMMUNICATION IN DECISION MAKING (5)
	632	RISK COMMUNICATION (5)
	634	CREATIVE MESSAGE DESIGN (5)
	635	TOPICS IN SMALL GROUP AND ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION (5)
	636	HEALTH COMMUNICATION
	637	PUBLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS (5)
	640	SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (5)
	642	MASS COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY (5)
	643	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION & THE WORLD PRESS (5)
	644	ADVERTISING AND SOCIETY (5)
	650	INVESTIGATING COMMUNICATION THROUGH INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY (5)
	657	NEW COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (5)
	668	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXTS (5)
	760	COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS (5)
	763	QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGIES FOR COMMUNICATION RESEARCH (5)
	807	FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION THEORY (5)
	820	FOUNDATIONS OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (5)
	830	FOUNDATIONS OF ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION (5)
NAT RES	615	SKILLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS (5)
	810	CASE STUDIES AND EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION (5)

Additional supporting courses might be selected, based upon the interests and career goals of the student, from:

AEE	622	CONTINUING EDUCATION IN AEE (3)
	642	YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (3)

	643	YOUTH PROGRAMS MANAGEMENT IN NON-SCHOOL SETTINGS (3)
	790	WORKSHOP IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (1-5)
	795.02	SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES (1-3)
	795.03	SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (1-3)
	795.04	SEMINAR: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (1-3)
	795.05	SEMINAR: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (1-3)
	886	RESEARCH DESIGN (3)
	888	INSTRUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION (3)
	993	INDIVIDUAL STUDIES (1-5)
SOC	623	ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY IN EDUCATION (5)
ED-P&L	677	EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS (3)

Individual Studies (AEE 693 or 993; See p.16), Advanced Studies (AEE 889) and Internships (AEE 684) courses may be arranged with individual faculty members for unique learning experiences not encompassed by existing courses. Students must obtain the agreement of a faculty member to direct the study. Maximums exist on how many of these courses may be included (See p.11) in a program.

## **B. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The courses in this area of specialization are recommended to the student as providing the necessary subject matter to aid current and future teachers of agriculture.

AEE	622	CONTINUING EDUCATION IN AEE (3)
	641	OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN AG EDUC (3)
	642	YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (3)

Examples of additional supporting courses that could be selected based upon the interests and career goals of the student:

	790	WORKSHOP IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (1-5)
	795.02	SEMINAR: PROBLEMS AND ISSUES (1-3)
	795.03	SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (1-3)
	795.04	SEMINAR: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (1-3)
	795.05	SEMINAR: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (1-3)
	810	PRINCIPLES OF VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUC (3)
	830	SUPERVISION OF INSTRUCTION IN VOC EDUC (3)
	886	RESEARCH DESIGN (3)
	887	ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA (3)
	888	INSTRUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION (3)
ED P&L	798	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH FOR EDUCATORS (3)
PSYCH	600	PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING (5)
SOC	623	ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY IN EDUCATION (5)

Individual Studies (AEE 693 or 993, See p. 16), Advanced Studies (AEE 889) and Internships (AEE 684) courses may be arranged with individual faculty members for unique learning experiences not encompassed by existing courses. Students must obtain the

agreement of a faculty member to direct the study. Maximums exist (See p. 11) on how many of these courses may be included in a program.

### **C. EXTENSION EDUCATION**

The courses in this area of specialization are recommended as providing the necessary skills to aid current and future Extension professionals beyond their technical area of expertise.

AEE	622	CONTINUING EDUCATION IN AEE (3)
AEE	823	PROGRAM PLANNING IN AEE (3)
AEE	795.02	SEMINAR: PROBLEMS AND ISSUES --Volunteerism (3)
AEE	795.03	SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (3)
AEE	795.04	SEMINAR: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (3)

Additional supporting courses might be selected, based upon the intent and career goals of the student.

AEE	642	YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (3)
	643	YOUTH PROGRAM MGMT IN NON-SCHOOL SETTINGS (3)
	795.01	SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS (1-3)
	795.05	SEMINAR: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (1-3)
	886	RESEARCH DESIGN (3)
	887	ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA (3)
	888	INSTRUMENTATION AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA COLLECTION (3)
ED P&L	798	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH FOR EDUCATORS (3)
PSYCH	600	PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING (4)
SOC	623	ADVANCED SOCIOLOGY IN EDUCATION (5)

Individual Studies (AEE 693 or 993, See p. 16), Advanced Studies (AEE 889) and Internships (AEE 684) courses may be arranged with individual faculty members for unique learning experiences not encompassed by existing courses. Students must obtain the agreement of a faculty member to direct the study. Maximums exist (See p. 11) on how many such courses may be included in a program.

### **DEGREE OPTIONS**

#### **Thesis Option**

The Master of Science (MS) degree program must include a thesis. The purpose of a thesis is to discover new knowledge. Students will work closely with their graduate committee to identify an appropriate topic and conduct research to discover new knowledge in a systematic manner (See pp. 13 & 15). AEE 885, Research Methods, will provide many of the skills and the knowledge necessary to complete a thesis, so students may wish to enroll in this course early in their program. A student might wish to examine some of the theses completed by former students. These theses are available in the Agricultural Library located in the basement of the Agricultural Administration Building (AA) in the south wing.

#### **Project Option**

The Masters of Education (MEd) degree includes a non-thesis project. The purpose of a project is to place existing knowledge in a more usable form. Adequate resources or a period of

time for concentrated study and research may not be readily available for the student to complete a thesis that contributes new knowledge to the field. Therefore, the student may elect the non-Thesis option and complete a project that, generally, applies or restructures existing knowledge (See p.14). A project will be a creative endeavor such as a teaching manual, teaching materials project, field study, student self-study package, evaluation material, or a needs survey. Many advisers have past projects available for current students to examine.

### **Comparisons of MS and MEd Options**

	<u>MS Option</u>	<u>MEd Option</u>
Total hours (minimum)	45	50
Hours of research, independent study or advanced studies*	3-6	3-6
Minimum hours in AEE	20	20
Minimum hours other than AEE	9	9
Written examination	None	4 hours
Oral examination: over core subject areas	1 hour	1 hour
over thesis or project	1 hour	1 hour

\* Credit hours of enrollment for Thesis Option students are in AEE 999, Research, and 2-3 hours of credit are typically taken in one quarter to plan the thesis (write the proposal); and 2-3 hours in a later quarter to conduct the research and finish writing the thesis. The number of total credit hours for a thesis is determined by the adviser/committee based upon the scope of the thesis. Hours for the project option are typically 2-3 hours in AEE 693/993, Individual Studies, to plan the project; and 3 hours in AEE 889, Advanced Studies, to finish the project. The number of total credit hours for a project is determined by the adviser/committee based upon the scope of the project. Call numbers for these courses are available from individual professors and may require submitting a "Course Enrollment Permission" form (OSU Form 9292).

### **MINOR (AKA\*: COGNATE; SUPPORTING COURSES)**

A student must complete at least nine credit hours of courses outside of AEE that are related to the candidate's area of professional interest. The student and the committee define the content of this area.

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**AKA = Also Known As**

# MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM PLANNING FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Date Program Initiated \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter Completion Expected \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE TITLE	HOURS	QUARTER PLANNED	QUARTER COMPLETED
AEE:			

MINOR (9 hours minimum):

	Description	Length of Time
<u>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</u>		
<u>OR PLANNED INTERNSHIP:</u>		
<u>PLANS FOR MEETING</u>		
<u>CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION:</u>		

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Adviser Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
AEE GSC Chair Signature                      Date

\* This program must initially be submitted for approval to the Graduate Studies Committee during the quarter in which 12 hours are completed. Final program is also submitted to Graduate Studies Committee for approval prior to final quarter of enrollment and applying to graduate.

Copies of this program should be provided to: (1) candidate, (2) adviser, (3) committee members (committee can be comprised of 2 or more members but majority must be from AEE).

## PLANNING CHECKLIST Master's Degree

- \_\_\_\_\_ Select adviser and committee.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan Master's program and submit to AEE GSC chair for approval.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Select thesis or project topic and obtain committee's approval (p. 15).
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit "Application to Graduate" form to Graduate School no later than the second Friday of the quarter in which graduation is expected after having final program approval from Chair of the GSC.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit final draft of thesis or project to committee at least one week prior to oral exam but not later than three weeks before commencement. Non-Thesis projects must include an abstract. One bound copy is to be submitted to the adviser for permanent storage in the department.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Master's examinations must be completed and a report filed with Graduate School no later than two weeks before commencement. Non-Thesis option students' exam must include a four-hour written portion and a two-hour oral portion.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ All final grades must be received by the Graduate School according to the date listed quarterly.

# APPROVAL CHECKLIST MS DEGREE IN AEE

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Program submitted to GSC Chair prior to end of the second quarter of enrollment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Program reviewed and returned to adviser.

Met	Not Met	Requirement
		20 credit hours in AEE
		9 credit hours in minor
		No more than 12 hours of AEE 889 and/or 993
		No more than 21 total hours of independent study
		Program must include these courses:
		Foundations: AEE 700
		Core: AEE 723, 730(or 840*), 770
		Research: AEE 885 and 887
		Minimum of two quarters of residency (enrolled in at least one course on the Columbus campus)
		Minimum of 45 total credit hours
		Plans for meeting conditions of admission, if any
		Internship, if needed
		Program completed within a six-year period
		Final program submitted to GSC Chair prior to beginning of final quarter of enrollment

- \* Only for Ag Comm specialization students

COMMENTS:



Initial Approval

Final Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AEE GSC Chair / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AEE GSC Chair / Date

Copies to: GSC Secretary, Adviser; Student

# PROGRAM APPROVAL CHECKLIST MEd DEGREE IN AEE

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Program submitted to GSC Chair prior to end of the second quarter of enrollment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Program reviewed and returned to adviser.

Met	Not Met	Requirement
		20 credit hours in AEE
		9 credit hours in minor
		No more than 12 hours of AEE 889 and/or 993
		No more than 21 total hours of independent study
		Program must include these courses:
		Foundations: AEE 700
		Core: AEE 723, 730, 770
		Research: AEE 885
		Minimum of two quarters of residency (enrolled in at least one course on the Columbus campus)
		Minimum of 50 total credit hours
		Plans for meeting conditions of admission, if any
		Internship, if needed
		Program completed within a six-year period
		Final program submitted to GSC Chair prior to beginning of final quarter of enrollment

COMMENTS:



Initial Approval

Final Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AEE GSC Chair / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of AEE GSC Chair / Date

Copies to: GSC Secretary, Adviser; Student

## SUGGESTED THESIS OUTLINE

Use appropriate style manual as specified by your adviser and the directions manual from the Graduate School that is on their web site.

Cover Page  
Table of Contents  
List of Tables  
List of Figures

Chapter 1--Introduction (Background, Setting, Need, Justification, and Significance of the Problem)

Problem Statement  
Objectives, Research Questions, and/or Hypotheses  
Definition of Terms (Constitutive and Operational)  
Limitations of the Study (if needed)  
Basic Assumption of the study (if needed)

Chapter 2--Review of Literature

Sections determined as appropriate to building the theoretical framework for the study.

Chapter 3--Procedures

<u>Experimental</u>	or	<u>Non-Experimental</u>
Research Design		Research Design
Subject Selection		Population and Sampling
Outcome Measures		Instrumentation
Conditions of Testing		Data Collection Procedures
Treatments		Data Analysis
Data Analysis		

Chapter 4--Results

Findings (framed by the objectives/questions/hypotheses)

Chapter 5--Summary/Conclusion/Recommendations

Present, in abstract form, objectives and procedures  
Present a summary of the major conclusions from the study

Recommendations

Generalize conclusions to appropriate practices/procedures/policies

Implications

Implications to existing knowledge/theory  
Implications for further study

References Cited

Appendices -- Supporting Information

## **SUGGESTED NON-THESIS (PROJECT) OUTLINE**

Project report could include:

Cover Page

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Chapter 1 Introduction

1. Need for the Study, Background Information and Significance of the Problem

2. Objectives/Procedures

Chapter 2 Procedures to be followed to conduct the project

1. Information Gathering Procedures

A. From whom/where gathered

B. When gathered

C. How gathered

2. Assembly and Analyses Procedures

Chapter 3 The Project Content

1. Findings or Results and Conclusions (The Project Product)

2. Discussion and Implications

References Cited

Appendices

## THESIS/DISSERTATION PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE FORM

Title of Proposed Study: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

The Graduate Committee for \_\_\_\_\_ (candidate) met in formal session on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and approved the proposed research project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Adviser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member

The acceptability of the research study proposal is determined by the candidate's Graduate Committee. The student, adviser, and the members of the committee should engage in timely discussions to maintain progress toward completion of the research project. The adviser and the student should retain a copy of this form in their files.

Individual Studies 693/993 Agreement

Student Name:

Local Address:

Local Phone:

Email:

Course Number

Course Title:

Call Number:

Credit Hours:

Enrollment Term:

Project Title:

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Project Objectives:

Assignments to be Submitted for Grading:

Target Completion Date:

Approvals\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature & Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Faculty Signature & Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Adviser's Signature & Date)

\*Signatures are required prior to the close of registration during the term of enrollment.