

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Communication & Education

The Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Communications and Education requires a minimum of 48 semester hours of graduate coursework along with the development of a dissertation (12 hours) beyond a Master's degree (total of 60 hours post-master's degree). The purpose of the degree program is to provide an opportunity for advance study in the human dimensions of agriculture (agricultural communications, agricultural education, & agricultural leadership) for students and to meet the growing demand for college and university faculty who can provide instruction in more than one dimension. This degree will provide a resident experience specifically designed to prepare students for the rigors of a faculty position including successful scholarship in academic and research appointments.

At or near the end of course work, the student will take a qualifying examination that requires a synthesis and application of knowledge acquired during the course of study for the doctoral student. The major portion of the examination is ordinarily a written exam requiring at least 16 hours spread over four business days. This qualifying examination process also includes an oral examination under the supervision of the committee. Students are then required to complete a dissertation and pass an oral defense of the dissertation.

CURRICULUM (Minimum of 60 course credit hours beyond master's)

Foundation (9 hours)

Designed to prepare graduates with the essential foundations for success in 21st century academic institutions. Students are required to complete each of the Department's three foundation courses.

- ACOM 5306 *Foundations of Agricultural Communications*
- AGED 5306 *History & Philosophy of Agricultural and Extension Education*
- AGLS 5304 *Theoretical Foundations Leadership*

Core (18 hours)

Designed to prepare graduates with the essential foundations for success in 21st century academic institutions. Nine of the eighteen hours will be gained through three required courses while the rest are selected to help each student towards their individual career goals and interests.

Required (9 hours)

- AGED 5308 *Foundations of Adult Education*
- AGED 5310 *College Teaching in Agriculture*
- AGED 6301 *The Professorate*

Optional (select 9 hours)

- ACOM 5302 *Knowledge Management in Agricultural and Natural Resources*
- ACOM 5303 *Advanced Imaging and Design in Agricultural Communications*
- ACOM 5304 *Risk and Crisis Communications in Agriculture and Natural Resources*
- ACOM 5305 *Public Opinion in Agriculture and Natural Resources*
- AGLS 5302 *Methods of Technological Change*
- ACOM 5308 *Utilizing Online Media in Agricultural Communications*

- AGED 5305 *Program Development in Agricultural and Extension Education*
- AGED 5309 *Evaluation of Programs in Vocational, Technical, and Extension Education*
- AGED 5311 *Human Dimension of International Agricultural Development*
- AGED 5313 *Educational Opportunities*
- AGED 7100 *Graduate Seminar* (may be repeated)
- AGLS 5305 *Developing Leadership in Rural Communities*
- AGLS 5306 *Contemporary Issues in Agricultural Leadership*
- AGLS 5307 *Evaluating Leadership in Agricultural Organizations*
- AGLS 5308 *International Experiences in Agricultural Leadership*

Research and Statistics (21 hours)

Designed to prepare graduates in quantitative and qualitative research methodologies as well as advanced data analysis techniques. Three courses (9 hours) are required of all students. The remaining 12 hours will be determined with the student's graduate committee and will likely include advanced statistical analysis methodologies as advanced study in quantitative and/or qualitative research methodologies from departments and colleges outside of Agricultural Education & Communications (e.g. Educational Psychology). Required courses are:

- AGED 5302 *Research Methods and Analysis in Agricultural Education and Communications*
- AGED 5312 *Data Analysis and Presentation in Agricultural Communications and Education*
- EDCI 5386 *Constructivist Inquiry Methodologies in Curriculum and Instruction*

Dissertation (12 hours over required course credit hours)

All students are required to complete a dissertation representing their independent research.

- AGED 8000 – Doctor's Dissertation (V1-12)

Required Experience Plan

All doctoral students in consultation with their major professor and graduate committee are expected to develop a written experience plan to be approved along with their program of study. Expectations for the experience plan and a listing of example opportunities follows.

**Department of Agricultural Education and Communications
Texas Tech University**

Ph.D. Experience Plan Requirement

All doctoral students in consultation with their major professors are expected to develop a written experience plan to be approved along with their program of study. Each experience plan shall be a detailed plan that takes into consideration previous experience and builds upon and broadens that. The plan is to be reviewed by the student's graduate committee on an annual basis. The graduate coordinator will be in charge of monitoring that the plans are filed.

The experience plan requirement will benefit students in their future careers. What graduate students think are their career goals are not necessarily where they will find employment. The experience plan is designed to augment students' backgrounds of experience in order to help them be well-rounded, well-prepared, graduates of the Department of Agricultural Education and Communications at Texas Tech University.

A person with a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Communications and Education is expected to have experiences in all areas, including teaching, communications, extension, international, and research. Guidelines for the experience plan include the following: (1) ten or more experiences, including a grant proposal, a professional meeting, and an article, poster, or presentation proposal; (2) a checklist format with times to be completed; (3) a broad expanse of experiences, not just those related to previous experiences or career goals; and (4) expected reporting times and formats, either written or verbal.

The following is a partial list of possible settings and opportunities that occur annually. Specific requirements for observation and participation should be delineated in each individual plan. The description should include the level of participation in the activity and what the student learned as an outcome of participation.

| ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPATION & OUTCOME | DATE |
|--|--|------|
| AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS | | |
| National FFA Ag Communications CDE | | |
| Texas FFA Ag Communications CDE | | |
| Texas FFA Convention Times Newspaper | | |
| ACT club meetings | | |
| Regional ACT meetings | | |
| National ACT conference | | |
| Ag Communications industry meetings | | |
| Industry internship | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |
| EXTENSION LEADERSHIP | | |
| County Extension office | | |
| State Extension Specialist or field specialist | | |
| Extension orientation for new staff | | |
| Extension in-service education | | |
| Extension materials development | | |
| Extension field demonstrations | | |
| Extension field demonstrations | | |
| 4-H camps | | |
| Collegiate 4-H club meetings | | |
| Volunteer Leader training | | |
| Area Extension Education meetings | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |
| INTERNATIONAL | | |
| International field experience | | |
| Cooperative exchange between U.S. and international students | | |
| International visitor assistance | | |
| Language study | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |
| LEADERSHIP | | |
| FFA LDE Events | | |
| Professional internship | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |

| ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPATION & OUTCOME | DATE |
|---|--|------|
| TEACHER EDUCATION | | |
| Collegiate FFA club meetings | | |
| Fall district VATAT meetings | | |
| Summer VATAT conference | | |
| Student teacher visits | | |
| VATAT planning meetings | | |
| Inservice education activities for teachers | | |
| High school agriculture department | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |
| MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES | | |
| National FFA Convention | | |
| State FFA Convention | | |
| District and Area FFA conferences | | |
| FFA CDE Events | | |
| State Fairs | | |
| County Fairs | | |
| Livestock shows | | |
| 4-H Camps | | |
| 4-H Conference | | |
| Young Farmer conference | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |
| RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT | | |
| Research meetings | | |
| Professional meetings | | |
| Departmental seminars | | |
| Professional journals | | |
| Grant writing | | |
| Program evaluations | | |
| Data collection | | |
| Needs assessment | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |

| ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPATION & OUTCOME | DATE |
|------------------------------------|--|------|
| ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP | | |
| Undergraduate classes | | |
| Undergraduate mentoring | | |
| Post-secondary student conferences | | |
| Post-secondary recruitment visits | | |
| Departmental committees | | |
| Departmental meetings | | |
| TEACH program | | |
| Distance course delivery | | |
| Distance program delivery | | |
| OTHER: _____ | | |