

CHANGES IN REQUIRED COURSES FOR UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS IN AGRIBUSINESS AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

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Approximately fifteen years have passed since the last comprehensive assessment of the undergraduate major in agribusiness and applied economics (AAE). As a key part of a thorough review that is now under way, faculty members in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics (AEDE) have closely examined courses required of all AAE majors. The changes AEDE is now proposing are a product of this effort, which also has involved consultation with students as well as colleagues in other departments.

Once implemented, these changes will improve curricular consistency and, from the student's perspective, streamline the major. At present, four 4-hour courses (AEDE 401, 402, 403, and 500) and three 3-hour offerings (501, 502, and 503) are among the AAE requirements. So is a second accounting class (Acc 212 or the equivalent). With the changes we are proposing, AAE majors will no longer have to take AEDE 501 and Acc 212 and the courses that will still be required – 401, 402, 403, 500, 502, and 503 – will all be 5-hour offerings. In addition, prerequisites for these six courses and for AEDE 601, which has been and will continue to be required, will be pared back to what are clearly essential. Finally, course content will be updated to reflect the evolution of knowledge as well as material needed by our graduates, whether they enter the workplace or pursue a post-graduate or professional degree.

AEDE is taking this opportunity to make two other changes in the undergraduate curriculum. First, the distribution between lecture- and laboratory hours in 205 will be changed to add an introduction to linear and multiple regression. Second, 412, which used to be about farm records and analysis, will in future have a more general focus.

Provided that all changes are accepted by the college and university, AEDE hopes to implement the curricular revisions outlined above and described in detail in the accompanying course-specific proposals when the 2009-2010 academic year begins.