

# Agricultural Education



**T**he master of education program offered through the Department of Agriculture at Texas State University-San Marcos prepares students to work as professionals in the agriculture industry, in leadership and management positions, and in secondary schools and adult education.

The department offers an emphasis on teaching development with research possibilities. Our campus is located near Freeman Ranch, a 3,500-acre, university-operated teaching and research ranch that provides a unique learning environment.

Agriculture education has a long history at this university. When Southwest Texas State Normal School (now Texas State University) was created in 1899, it was charged with the responsibility of teaching agriculture to teachers who were training to work in rural schools. The first classes were held in 1909, and the agriculture department began offering a master of education degree in the 1970s.

**TEXAS**  **STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
SAN MARCOS

*The rising STAR of Texas*

*A member of The Texas State University System*

## Course Work

A thesis or non-thesis degree may be selected.

The curriculum consists of 36 hours, with 21 hours in agricultural education and 15 hours in an integrated minor. The thesis counts as six hours toward the 21-hour agricultural education requirement.

In addition, three hours are required in research and analysis as part of the 21 hours. The major and supportive courses are to be taken on the recommendation and approval of the student's advisory committee, which consists of three or more faculty selected with the help of the graduate advisor.

Agriculture courses include:

- Instructional Skill Development
- Advancements in Animal Science
- Problems in Technical Agriculture

Agricultural education courses include:

- Problems in Teaching Vocational Agriculture
- Administration and Supervision of Vocational Education
- Adult Education Program Development and Methods
- History and Principles of Vocational Education
- Diffusion of Innovations
- Research Methods in Vocational Education
- Guidance
- Curriculum Development of Vocational Programs
- Advanced Farm Power and Machinery
- Agricultural Structures Design
- Advanced Welding Processes and Designs
- Thesis

## Admission Policy

In addition to the general requirements for admission to the Texas State Graduate College, the Department of Agriculture requires a bachelor's degree with a 2.75 GPA during the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. Conditional admission is available to students with a 2.50 GPA on the last 60 hours and a preferred GRE score of 950 (verbal and quantitative combined). All applicants must also submit three letters of reference (at least two from academia) to the department.

Each applicant also must submit the following to the Graduate College at Texas State:

- an official Texas State Graduate College application form
- one official transcript from each college or university attended, including community colleges
- official results of the verbal/quantitative sections of the GRE if your GPA is between 2.5 and 2.74 for the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work. Preferred score is 950.

Visit [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) for access to an online application and additional details. Applications must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester, April 15 for summer I and June 1 for summer II.

## Career Options

Many of our graduates work in public schools as teachers, principals and superintendents. But most work in agriculture education, for the Cooperative Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, or in other agricultural professions and enterprises.

## Financial Assistance

Graduate assistantships and scholarships are available through the Department of Agriculture. Graduate students may work as laboratory instructors or faculty research assistants. Stipends are available on a competitive basis. Out-of-state student recipients of university stipends are eligible for resident tuition rates. Send your application letter, statement of reasons for graduate study, and two reference letters under separate cover to the graduate advisor in the Department of Agriculture by March 31 for fall assistantships. For students seeking admission at other times, assistantship awards will be made if funds are available. The awards are based on scholastic achievement.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College Web site at [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) and click on *Financing Your Graduate Education*.

## Contact

Graduate Advisor  
Department of Agriculture  
Texas State University-San Marcos  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666-4616  
Phone: 512.245.2130  
Fax: 512.245.3338  
E-mail: [ag@txstate.edu](mailto:ag@txstate.edu)

“*‘Terrified’ is the only feeling I felt when I walked back in a classroom after seven years. If it weren’t for the small family atmosphere of the Agriculture Department, I probably wouldn’t have transitioned as quickly as I did. The faculty and students really made me feel I was part of the family. I am thankful every day that I decided to come back to school, and I am even more thankful that I chose the Texas State University Department of Agriculture as my home for the next two years.*”

— Jennifer Smith  
Agricultural Education master's student