



Thank you for visiting the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Graduate Program website. We have a very good and growing graduate program that provides exciting opportunities for student research and employment after graduation.

Our goal is to provide one of the best graduate programs in applied economics in the U.S. We are accomplishing this through recruiting great faculty and students, and working closely with our students to obtain excellent jobs upon graduation.

Our graduate program offers a number of exciting opportunities for students:

- We have a very strong MS program, and these students often choose to continue their studies in the PhD program.
- In the PhD program, core economic theory and econometrics classes are taught by faculty from both our department and the Department of Economics. Students receive a PhD in Economics while taking two fields in applied economics.
- We have six very strong areas of applied economics to focus your graduate studies and to conduct your thesis and dissertation research (more below).
- We have highly respected senior faculty working in the areas of agribusiness, environmental economics, health economics, international development and regional development.
- We have outstanding junior faculty who teach and do research in agribusiness, applied econometrics, environmental economics, health economics, and international trade.
- Nearly all of our graduate students receive funding to support their graduate studies as teaching or research assistants.
- Blacksburg, Virginia is a great place to live. There are many outdoor amenities and urban areas are nearby for weekend excursions.
- We have an active group of graduate students who provide a strong social network while you are working on your graduate degree.
- We have a very diverse group of graduate students who come to Virginia Tech from a variety of backgrounds and from many countries around the world.
- Our students get very good jobs upon graduation with very strong placement in academic institutions.

*Invent the Future*

- We care about our students and spend considerable time working with them as graduate students and helping them as professional mentors after graduation.

Students who come to Virginia Tech for a graduate degree will focus their study in the following areas of applied economics:

*Agribusiness* – this is an area of strength in our MS program. Student research has focused on niche marketing, small business management, farm planning and transition and agricultural finance.

*Applied Econometrics* – this is an area of traditional strength in our department and the Department of Economics. We have hired two junior faculty members who work in the areas of nonparametric estimation and panel-data analysis.

*Environmental and Resource Economics* – this is a long-standing area of strength in the department where we have recently hired two of the best young environmental economists. The primary strength in this area is nonmarket valuation with applications to many important environmental issues.

*Food and Health Economics* – this is a new area of specialization in the department with exciting interdisciplinary research opportunities. Recent research applications here have focused on the economics of obesity, smoking cessation, safe drinking water, and parental valuation of child health.

*International Development and Trade* – this is a long-standing area of strength in the department where we have recently hired a faculty member who specializes in international trade. Research applications focus on international development of agriculture with emphases on the economics of integrated pest management and program evaluation.

*Rural and Regional Development* – we have one of the strongest programs in this area in the country. Research applications focus on the roles of education, agricultural and energy technologies, and social assistance programs in rural economic well-being.

Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech is a great place to study, make life-long friendships and build a strong foundation for your professional career!

If you would like to learn more about our graduate program, the department, Virginia Tech and the Blacksburg community, [please click here to return to the AAEC Graduate website](#).

Please feel free to contact me. I hope to see you studying at Virginia Tech ...

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