



AGRIBUSINESS

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Program Introduction

A degree in Agribusiness prepares an individual to manage agricultural businesses and agriculturally-related operations. Agribusiness is designed to prepare a student for employment in a wide variety of fields including business, finance, international agriculture, agricultural marketing, policy formation, farm and ranch management, resource economics, rural development, banking, and real estate appraisal. The curriculum focuses on management and skills necessary for students to succeed in running their own businesses or a range of agricultural jobs. The degree emphasizes decision-making skills, understanding of the agricultural-food system dynamics, and leadership/management qualities to enhance students' contributions to agribusiness ventures. As a degree completion program, it relates to Doane's mission statement by preparing undergraduate students to engage as leaders and responsible citizens in the world.

Admission Process

Undergraduate admission into the College of Professional Studies at Doane University starts with contacting Doane's enrollment team. The enrollment team at Doane will work with new students one-on-one and assist them with a transfer credit evaluation, questions about the program, the admission process, payment plan options, and new student orientation. Doane's enrollment team is dedicated to assisting new students to promote a smooth transition into the classroom. Students will need to apply for admission on Doane's website, submit an official high school or GED transcript and all college transcripts.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AGR-305: Agriculture Futures & Options (3 credits)

This course examines the role of agricultural futures and options in risk management strategies for producers and agribusiness firms and in the price discovery process. The focus is fundamental supply-demand and technical analysis of markets and pricing processes as well as development and applications of effective price risk management strategies. To develop analytical skills relevant to agribusiness management, students will a) apply economic principles to problems of farms, ranches, and other institutions in the food and fiber industries, and b) demonstrate technological skills used in quantitative analysis. In addition, to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, students will a) apply the scientific method in an area relevant to agribusiness and economics, and b) propose and assess economic policy solutions to agricultural and food issues.

AGR-310: Agricultural Law and Policy (3 credits)

This course examines legal problems of farm and agribusiness management. Practical application of principles of contracts, negligence, debt instruments and commercial transactions of the farm and agribusiness organization will be performed. Students will also study selected state and federal laws regulating the farm and agribusiness sector especially basic animal laws. To develop an understanding of ethical, socially responsible, and sustainable behavior, students will a) demonstrate the role of civic responsibility, including corporate and cooperative governance, and b) judge environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions. In addition, to improve students' understanding and appreciation of broader issues relevant to agribusiness, they will a) analyze global issues relevant to agribusiness and agricultural development, and b) differentiate the influence of diversity in agribusiness employees, customers, and producers.

AGR-315: Advanced Agricultural Technology (3 credits)

This course focuses on computer use and technology in the workplace with an emphasis on agribusiness situations. Computer applications including spreadsheets, databases, and presentation software will be covered as well as accessing Internet information, telecommunication applications, drones, basic web page design, and other software applications appropriate to agribusiness. To effectively evaluate and communicate agribusiness information, students will a) select appropriate data sources to obtain information on the agricultural and food sectors, and b) communicate the results of literature reviews, experiments, and production data both orally and in writing.

AGR-420: Agricultural Finance (3 credits)

This course analyzes the theory of financial decision making as applied to farms and agricultural firms. Topics include asset pricing models, financial markets, capital structure, farmland control, term structure of interest rates, risk management and credit evaluation. To develop effective leadership and management skills, students will a) produce a project through working as a team, and b) develop a business plan or case study on an agribusiness topic. In addition, to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, the students will a) apply the scientific method in an area relevant to agribusiness and economics, and b) propose and assess economic policy solutions to agricultural and food issues.

AGR-425: Agricultural Sustainability (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to how global agriculture and sustainability issues are at the intersection of natural resource management and business. The course will devote significant time covering the fundamental principles of agribusiness and how sustainability issues are key factors in business decision making today and in the future. To develop an understanding of ethical, socially responsible, and sustainable behavior, students will a) demonstrate the role of civic responsibility, including corporate and cooperative governance, and b) judge environmental impacts of agribusiness decisions. In addition, to improve their understanding and appreciation of broader issues relevant to agribusiness, students will a) analyze global issues relevant to agribusiness and agricultural development, and b) differentiate the influence of diversity in agribusiness employees, customers, and producers.

AGR-430: Advanced Agribusiness Management (3 credits)

This senior capstone course applies concepts, principles, and analytical tools in developing a marketing plan for an existing or new agricultural product or service. Students will define the market, perform competitive marketing analysis, outline market assumptions and objectives, and perform a three-year financial evaluation of the action plan. To develop analytical skills relevant to agribusiness management, students will a) apply economic principles to problems of farms, ranches, and other institutions in the food and fiber industries, and b) demonstrate technological skills used in quantitative analysis. In addition, to develop effective leadership and management skills, students will a) produce a project through working as a team, and b) develop a business plan or case study on an agribusiness topic. Finally, to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, students will a) apply the scientific method in an area relevant to agribusiness and economics, and b) propose and assess economic policy solutions to agricultural and food issues.

Required Courses (33)

AGR 305 - Agriculture Futures & Options (3)
AGR 310 - Agricultural Law and Policy (3)
AGR 315 - Advanced Agricultural Technology (3)
AGR 420 - Agricultural Finance (3)
AGR 425 - Agricultural Sustainability (3)
AGR 430 - Advanced Agribusiness Management (3)
ACC 103 - Financial Accounting (3)
ACC 104 - Managerial Accounting (3)
BUS 215 - Statistics (3) or SSI 217, MTH 235, MTH 356
BUS 301 - Consumer Behavior (3)
BUS 315/CMS 315 - Organizational Behavior (3)

Doane Core Courses (33)

Core Component I: Foundational Areas of Knowledge (21)

Community and Identity (3)
Mathematical Reasoning (3)
Rhetorical Communication (3)
Global and Cultural Contexts (3)
Scientific Perspective (3)
Human Creativity (3)
In Search of Meaning and Values (3)

Core Component II: Liberal Arts Studies (9)

LAR 101 - Inquiry Seminar: Learning the Art of Inquiry (3)
LAR 202 - Integrative Seminar: Democracy and Diversity (3)
LAR 303 - Impact Seminar: Connecting Knowledge to Choices and Actions (3)

Core Component III: Fundamentals (3)

HHP 104 - Theory of Lifetime Fitness (1)
CSA 101-104 (2)