Agricultural Business, B.S.

DEPARTMENT

Department of Agricultural Business
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MN in Agricultural Business Minor
BS in Agricultural Business, B.S.

Courses Offered

Join the leader in science, technology, and management. The award-winning Agricultural Business Program at California State University, Fresno is a pacesetter — having been recognized by the Agribusiness Education Project, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and comprised of agricultural industry leaders and higher education scholars from around the country.

The agricultural business curriculum is a comprehensive and integrative program of economic principles and business application with a problem-solving orientation and a practical experience emphasis.

Degree Programs

The Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business combines core undergraduate courses in agricultural business (AGBS) with basic business management and agricultural science foundation courses. This undergraduate major allows you to emphasize a career specialty, such as agribusiness management, agricultural finance, agricultural marketing, farm management, or food industry management.

Certified Minor Programs. A Minor in Agricultural Business is available for students majoring in agricultural sciences, business, and other fields.

Complementary Fields of Study. Agricultural business students wishing to enhance their major with a technical field should consider a minor in such closely allied disciplines as animal science, family and consumer sciences, food and nutritional sciences, and plant science. A supplementary Minor in General Business is available through the Craig School of Business.

Ag One Grants for academic fees and books are available. Call 559.278.2061 for scholarship information and application.

The Master of Business Administration (MBA) has an elective area in agricultural business combining graduate courses in agricultural business (AGBS) with core courses from business. This degree program, AACSB-accredited, is administered by the Sid Craig School of Business. It is designed for individuals seeking to advance their career by enhancing their business management and economic analysis skills with an emphasis on agricultural sector applications. Contact the graduate business adviser at 559.278.2107. This area not currently accepting applications.

Instructional Facilities

Modern Computing Facilities. Labs are used to teach students computerized farm accounting systems, agricultural enterprise spreadsheets, agribusiness simulations, commodity trading, and to expose them to planning and decision-making aids as part of their professional expertise.

Institute for Food and Agriculture (IFA). Organized to promote the economic efficiency, profitability, and competitiveness of California agriculture, IFA uses faculty expertise and student assistance to address problems and opportunities in farm management, agribusiness finance, commodity marketing, agricultural trade, natural resources, and labor management. Seminars are held periodically on topics of concern to farmers and agribusiness managers. An annual Agribusiness Management Conference is co-sponsored with industry to explore current issues and report the economic outlook of the state’s agricultural sector.

Professional Preparation

Students establish credibility with prospective employers by participating in the following occupationally related activities.
• **Agricultural Business Club.** Students plan field trips, invite industry speakers to meetings, organize the annual alumni dinner, hold a newcomer picnic, support a campus job fair, and sponsor career preparation workshops.

• **Industry internships.** Opportunities exist for many career positions through management training programs with agricultural business firms and support institutions. The department coordinates internships on a competitive basis and grants academic credit in the major for this supervised experience (AGBS 194).

• **University Agricultural Laboratory Project.** Students gain farming experience through participation in the faculty supervised, student project program and concurrent enrollment in an Enterprise Management course (PLANT, ASCI 196). Such a course is highly recommended and can be used in the major.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**Agricultural Business, Major Requirements**

1. **Major (60-61 units)**

Agricultural Foundation (9 units)
Select 9 units of courses from any of the following areas:
AGBS, AGED, ASCI, AGRI, CULG, ENOL, FSC, FSM, IT, MEAG, NUTR, PLANT, VIT.

Business Management Base (15-16 units)
AGBS 2 or ECON 50
AGBS 28 or BA 18
AGBS 31 or ACCT 4A
AGBS 32 or ACCT 4B
AGBS 76

Agricultural Business Core (27 units)
AGBS 100, 105, 109, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170S

Career Specialty (9 units)
A required concentration of upper-division units in agricultural economics is selected to match the student's career goal in consultation with the student's assigned faculty advisor. (See major program of study advising check sheet for elective course listings in various subfields.

Additional requirement (0-1 unit)
Agricultural Business majors must take the following courses, which also satisfy General Education requirements:

**FOUNDATION**
Area B4: MATH 11 or MATH 75 or MATH 75A&B

**BREADTH**
Area D3: AGBS 1 or ECON 40

2. **General Education requirements (49 units)**

3. **Other requirements (6 units)**
Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

4. **Sufficient elective units to meet required total units** (varies)
(See Degree Requirements); it is recommended that units in this area be utilized to complete a second major or minor.

5. **Total units (120)**

* G.E. and MI courses can be double counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. See advisor for details.

**Grade requirements.** Students majoring in agricultural business must earn a grade of C or better in each of the lower-division AGBS courses used to satisfy the Business Management Base and the Additional Requirements in the major.

**Advising Notes**

1. New students should request the Advising Information brochure that includes a program-of-study check sheet and explanatory notes about requirements for the major.
2. All students are assigned a faculty advisor. Consult the department bulletin board for the current listing. Make an appointment each semester to review your academic record and to schedule remaining courses in order to graduate in a timely manner.

3. Prospective transfer students should consult with a community college academic advisor about their program of study to determine which California State University, Fresno AGBS courses are articulated as equivalent for lower-division credit. Transfer students may also consult ASSIST, the statewide articulations database, www.assist.org.

4. Credits earned for articulated community college courses do not count toward upper-division units in the major.

5. Students intending to pursue graduate study in agricultural economics or agribusiness should include approved courses in intermediate macroeconomic theory, differential and integral calculus, inferential statistics, and linear regression in their bachelor's degree program.

6. A double major of agricultural business with animal sciences, food and nutritional sciences, or plant science must have 36 mutually exclusive units (including a minimum of 18 upper division). A double major requires the approval of the department chairs administering these programs of study. Elective units may be applied (i.e., double counted) toward a second major or a minor. (See Double Major or Minor in this catalog and consult with the appropriate department advisor.)

7. Unit limits for courses included in the major exist for AGBS 80/180 (4 units combined maximum allowed) and AGBS 194I (3 units maximum allowed).

**FACULTY**

Faculty members are broadly trained with advanced degrees from top-ranked universities across the nation, and are highly experienced as teachers, consultants, and researchers. They bring practical insight to the classroom by being professionally active in service to California farms and agribusinesses, industry organizations, government agencies, and professional associations. Forming a strong advisee-adviser relationship with any one of the faculty can help you match your career goals with appropriate coursework.

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.

The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.