ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND FOOD ECONOMICS

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), or from a comparable substitute examination accepted by the graduate program, are required for admission. At the discretion of a graduate program, a student may be admitted provisionally (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/) for graduate study in a program without these scores. Letters of recommendation and an applicant’s statement of purpose are also required.

Students admitted to the M.S. program are expected to have:

• At least 9 credits in economics, including intermediate undergraduate microeconomic theory and intermediate undergraduate macroeconomic theory.
• Introductory statistics and two semesters of calculus.
• A minimum 3.00 junior/senior GPA (on a 4.00 scale).

Promising students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests who do not meet these requirements may be admitted provisionally (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/) at the discretion of the program. Students provisionally admitted (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/provisional-admission/) to the program are required to acquire the necessary background skills in economics, mathematics and statistics once they join the program.

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program are in general expected, though not required, to have a master’s degree in economics, agricultural economics, resource economics or other closely related field. Consistent with this general expectation, students admitted to the Ph.D. program should have course work in:

• Differential and integral calculus, and linear algebra.
• Master’s-level economic theory.
• Master’s-level statistics/econometrics.

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program are also expected to have a minimum 3.00 Grade Point Average (GPA) in master’s-level course work (on a 4.00 scale). Exceptions to the minimum 3.00 GPA may be made for students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests at the discretion of the program. Promising students who seek to enter the Ph.D. program but who have course work deficiencies may be admitted to the M.S. program and subsequently apply to the Ph.D. program after successfully eliminating the deficiencies. Completion of the M.S. degree is not required of students admitted to the Ph.D. program from the M.S. program. The expected time to completion of the Ph.D. for students without course work deficiencies is 3.5 to 4 years.