



MSU's College of Agriculture in Bozeman, Montana is the ideal setting for students interested in the natural environment, ecology, biotechnology and the relationship between humans and the outdoors. Many of our "labs" are outdoors in the mountains, valleys and rangelands of beautiful south-western Montana.

All programs of study are science-based. You will learn skills and study critical issues that prepare you to step into the challenges and opportunities of the working world. And, just as you are drawn to Montana for its unique balance of learning and lifestyle, our professors have also chosen MSU for its supportive, ambitious and down-to-earth atmosphere. As leaders in their fields, MSU faculty have chosen Bozeman for its dynamic, collaborative and inspiring setting.

The MSU College of Agriculture works closely with the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), which conducts relevant research for the people of Montana, and MSU Extension, which disseminates the research findings through a network of county and reservation offices. Many College of Agriculture faculty and staff are fully or partially funded by MAES or MSU Extension.

If you want to be challenged, meet inspiring people and prepare for a professional career in one of the most beautiful places on earth, the MSU College of Agriculture is for you.

Our Focus: *Learning for a Lifetime*

Situated jointly within MSU's College of Agriculture and College of Letters and Sciences, our department offers a unique opportunity for students with diverse interests to learn skills in:

- critical analysis
- logical problem solving
- data and policy analysis
- written and oral communication
- business management

We train individuals who will make a big difference in the world by applying solid critical thinking skills.

Our award-winning faculty has expertise in a wide variety of fields. We conduct cutting-edge research and teach a myriad of courses. We take an active interest in our students—upper division classes for our majors are small (averaging fewer than 30 students per class), implement

many innovative teaching methods, and help to facilitate students' recognition of their own ability (and responsibility) to think independently and to be engaged and active in directing the course of their lives. We focus on teaching students to *think*, to use *logic* and *reason*, and to *organize* their thoughts in order to *solve problems* rather than simply memorize and recite the subject matter. We also focus on instilling in students a *desire to learn*, so that they will leave our courses prepared and eager for lifelong learning.

We offer **Bachelor's of Science degrees** in **Economics** and **Agricultural Business** and a **Master's degree in Applied Economics**. Our programs have an excellent reputation with local, regional, national and international firms, as well as with exceptional graduate schools in law, economics and public policy.



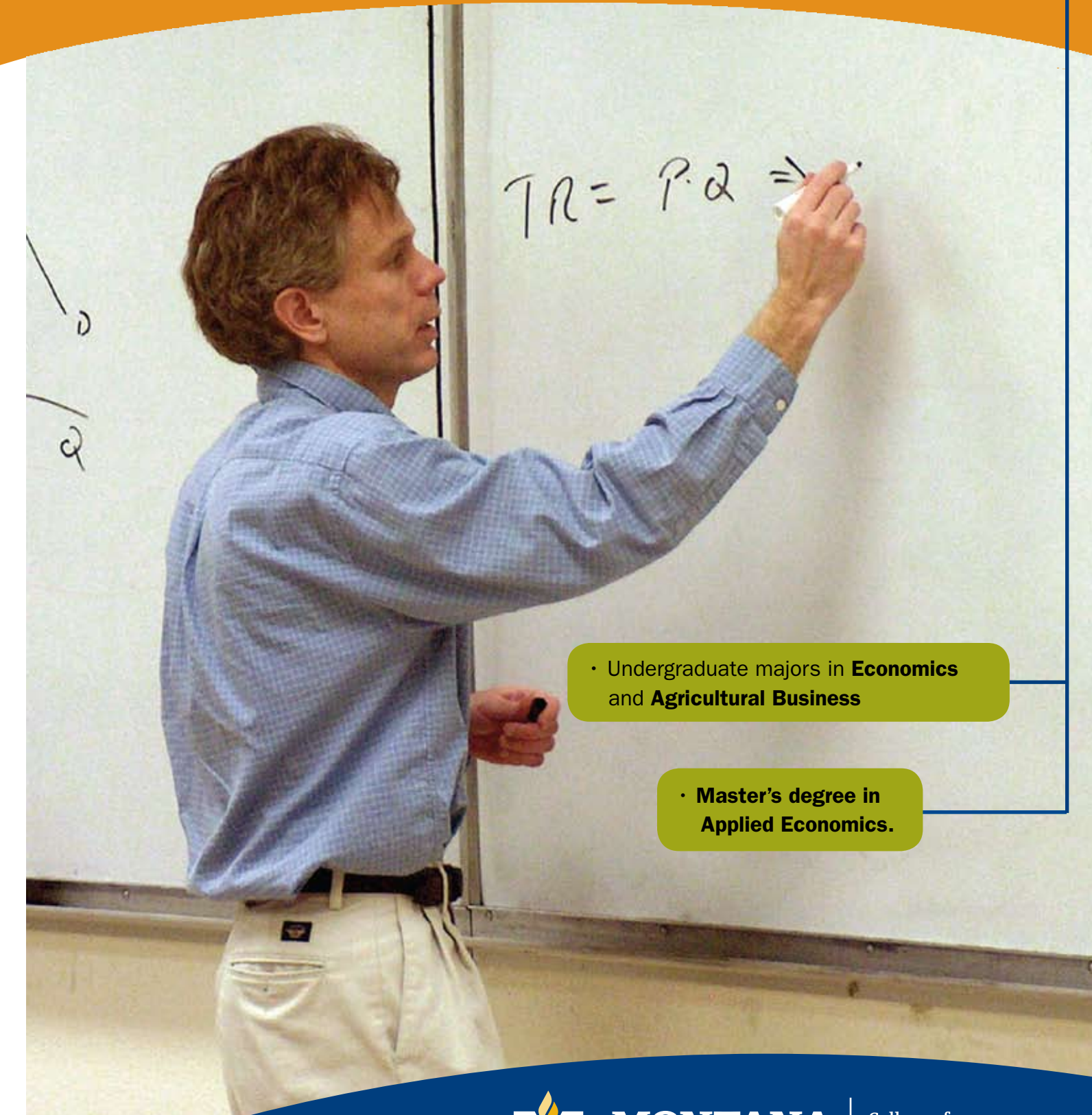
Our students have opportunities to travel the world to study global agriculture—including its impacts on environmental issues, public policy, agricultural marketing and world trade.



To find out more about our programs, contact us on the web at www.montana.edu/econ

Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics

Learning for a lifetime: Science- and research-based programs that prepare students to think critically and solve real-world problems



• Undergraduate majors in **Economics** and **Agricultural Business**

• **Master's degree in Applied Economics.**

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Economics

Individuals, business firms and governments face daily decisions about how to allocate scarce resources. The choices are extensive and range from which career to seek, workers to hire, goods to produce and policies to implement. Economics is the study of this critical decision-making behavior. It is a mode of thinking and reasoning with widespread application.

The skills that employers value most highly are the **ability to think critically and carefully**, the **ability to learn new skills** and the **ability to solve problems**. Some vocations may require very specific skills (for example, knowledge of a particular computer software package). However, skill requirements change over time. The need for people who can think, learn and solve problems is timeless. Economics hones these time-honored abilities.

Our Economics major is offered through the College of Letters and Sciences. We offer training in:

- economic development
- environmental policy and natural resource economics
- industrial organization
- international economics and trade
- labor economics
- money and banking
- public policy analysis
- statistics and econometrics

Agricultural Business

The Department offers a Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Business through the College of Agriculture. Agricultural businesses are those involved in producing, transporting, processing and distributing food and fiber products. Almost 20 percent of the U.S. economy's output involves the food and fiber sector—90 percent of which occurs beyond the farm gate. Agribusiness is a dynamic industry with a high degree of global and technological sophistication. The agribusiness sector includes companies that are on the cutting edge in the use of biotechnology, strategy, information systems, risk management, logistics and international trade.

The USDA estimates that 24,000 annual job openings in food, agriculture and natural resources will occur in the next five years, while only 20,000 qualified graduates will be produced over this time period.

Surveys indicate that employers seek out graduates with expertise in communication, critical thinking, business management and quantitative analyses. Our program specifically develops each of these through the study of:

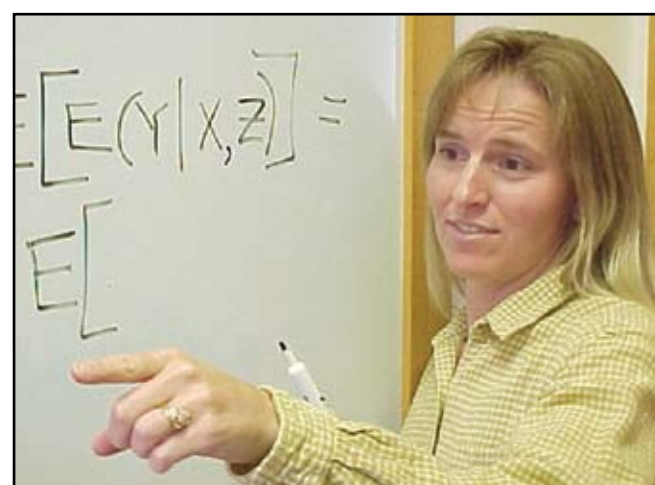
- accounting
- agricultural finance
- agricultural policy
- agricultural product prices
- economics
- international trade
- natural and social sciences
- natural resources
- price and production risk management
- strategic business management

The program incorporates case studies, teamwork and international opportunities to broaden the skills of our graduates.

The Agricultural Business degree consists of two options: (1) **The Agribusiness Management option** focuses on the management of firms that provide inputs to farmers and ranchers on one hand, and process, distribute and market products to consumers on the other hand. (2) **The Farm and Ranch Management option** provides education specifically for those who expect to manage agricultural production. In addition to finance, marketing, and trade issues, the curriculum is supplemented with courses that emphasize technical agricultural science issues.



Students work with faculty to solve complex problems.



Agricultural Business graduates are employed by a variety of firms, including:

- Archer Daniels Midland (market analysts)
- Columbia Grain (market analysts)
- USDA Farm Service Agency (loan officers)
- Southern States Cooperative (plant managers)
- Montana Livestock Ag Credit (loan officers)
- Farm Credit Services (loan officers)
- Northwestern Mutual Life (financial service managers)
- U.S. Bank (loan officers)

Our graduates manage risk, make business and strategic decisions, and manage people for each of these companies.

Our graduates say...

"Brought agricultural angles into business courses. Very good professors. Left class with something I can put to use."

—Class of 2003

"...a very worthwhile and challenging department."

—Class of 2003

"You never know how you are going to use your Economics background. Aside from our own business, I assist Blue Cross & Blue Shield and the Federal Reserve Bank as a board member. My Economics training has been invaluable in these roles, and has made me an effective contributor in businesses far removed from agriculture."

—Dean Folkvord, CEO of Wheat Montana, class of 1982

"I was in an unrelated major in the College of Agriculture, but minored in Agribusiness Management because I was impressed by the hands-on, applied approach that the professors took to teaching business concepts. Now that I work in the 'real world', I find that I use what I learned in these classes literally every day. Studying the business side of agriculture at MSU put me in a position to succeed in the agriculture industry."

—Alex Offerdahl, Project Manager, Watts and Associates, class of 2001

"Excellent topics, taught extremely well, and I enjoyed attending class."

—Class of 2004

"I believe that this is one of the best departments on campus. The faculty and staff were always available and concerned about students."

—Class of 2002



GRADUATE PROGRAM

Applied Economics

Our Master of Science degree in Applied Economics encourages students to develop and apply their skills in economic analysis and examine a wide array of economic and political issues. Learning takes place through coursework in economic theory, quantitative methods and econometrics, through collaborative work with departmental faculty, and through an intensive research thesis that addresses an important economic issue selected by the student.



Recent thesis topics include:

- The Impact of Wolves on Big Game Hunting Demand in Montana
- Prescription Drug Price Dispersion in Heterogeneous Markets
- Divorce Risk and the Labor Force Participation of Women With and Without Children
- The Economics of Terraces in the Peruvian Andes
- Consumer Response to Biotech Food Labeling: The Effects of Voluntary rBGH-Free Labels on Fluid Milk Demand

Our master's graduates say...

"Inspiring faculty committed to teaching and one-on-one mentoring of their students, challenging coursework, and stimulating research..."

—Master's degree 2002

"My two years in Bozeman were well spent and invaluable in preparing me for coursework and research in my Ph.D. program at U.C. Berkeley..."

—Master's degree 2002

"The faculty and program of study are superb."

—Master's degree 1994

"The faculty support I received during and after my time at MSU has truly advanced my career. The MSU economics education and faculty are recognized for their excellence by top ranked academic institutions."

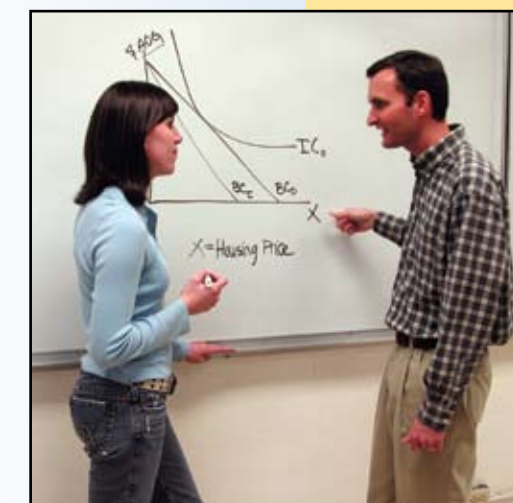
—Master's degree 1993

"By applying my graduate school training towards analyzing the costs and effectiveness of different environmental policies, I have earned the ear of relevant decision makers."

—Master's degree 2001

"My time at MSU was the most intellectually stimulating time of my life. The faculty is superb, and the program prepared me extremely well for a Ph.D. economics program elsewhere. I recommend the MSU Masters program in Applied Economics to students every chance I get."

—Master's degree 1994



Our recent students say...

"Great instructor, was always interesting and willing to help"

"A person learns more than just economics in this course"

"I learned valuable information for my life"

"[The professors] taught on all levels of learning."

"Got me thinking in new ways."

"[This training] will help as the years go on."

"This class opened my eyes and helped me realize why I am in college—to learn."

"I liked being shown a new way to look at the world and the problems in it."

"Makes you think for yourself."

"This is what I came to college for."