

# **Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics Academic Assessment Plan 2012-2013**

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*Office of the Provost*

*University of  
Florida*

*Institutional  
Assessment*

*Continuous Quality  
Enhancement*

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# 2012-2013 Academic Assessment Plan for Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

## A. Mission

Through a distinctive tradition of core-discipline excellence, interdisciplinary collaborations and productive partnerships, the Food and Resource Economics Department (FRED) teaches students to think critically, objectively and creatively and to be lifelong learners, engaged leaders and productive citizens; pursues research to advance knowledge and to address state, national and global challenges; and engages and educates the public.

The Food and Resource Economics Department supports the missions of the college and university to serve the nation’s and state’s critical needs by contributing to a well-qualified and broadly diverse citizenry, leadership and workforce through graduate education and to expand our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses through graduate student research.

## B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	Apply relevant theory to economic problems including possible quantitative approaches that could be used address the economic problem.	Student assessment will occur through monitoring of progress and maintenance of a 3.0 GPA minimum in core economic classes. After successful completion of the first two semesters of core courses, students will take an examination over this core material. Core classes include: AEB 7571 Econometric Methods I, ECO 7115 Microeconomic Theory I, ECO 7404 Game Theory for Economists, ECO 7408 Math Methods of Applied Economics, AEB 7108 Microeconomic Theory II, AEB 7240 Macroeconomic Theory II, AEB 7572 Econometric Methods II and AEB 6933 Advanced Econometrics. The exam questions are submitted by faculty and graded using a faculty-developed rubric.	Campus

Skills	Identify relevant economic problems and conduct an original research project, the results of which contribute to the discipline's knowledge; and communicate those results to an appropriate audience.	Student will submit a research proposition in their primary field of specialization (Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics or Natural Resource and Environmental Economics) to a faculty committee identified by the graduate coordinator in consultation with the student's faculty adviser. The proposition will be evaluated by this committee using a faculty-developed rubric.	Campus
Professional Behavior	Display ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, professional conduct and effective communication.	During their degree program, students adhere to the University of Florida's Honor Code. Observations will be made by faculty of professional behavior during class activities, seminars, research project work and research project defense. These observations will be shared with and evaluated by the student's supervisory committee, and noted on the student's PhD Checklist.	Campus

### C. Research

Doctoral students in Food and Resource Economics are expected to develop an original research project, the results of which contribute to the discipline's knowledge; and communicate those results to an appropriate audiences including presentation of research papers at discipline related conferences and also publish in top-tier journals. The students prepare for this research by completing core classes in both Food and Resource Economics and Economics (identified in SLO Knowledge above).

PhD students, in addition to the core classes are also required to take two additional seminar classes, AEB 6921 (Intro to Research Topics) and AEB 6934 (PhD Workshop and second-year job paper). These two classes prepare the student for presentation and submission of research papers/publications. Specifically, the students are required in AEB 6934 to submit a peer reviewed quality publication for the class. This paper is then assessed by the class instructor and two additional faculty members for knowledge, application of skills learned and potential for publication.

Doctoral students in our program are required prior to the start of formal classes to attend a two-week long intensive mathematical class with PhD cohorts in the Economics and Finance departments (co-taught by the three departments). These skills are essential for publication of research in top rated journal. During new PhD orientation in the department, students are also required to visit with graduate studies faculty in the department on research interests, grants for research projects, etc. Students are encouraged to identify their supervisory committee chair as quickly as possible, and no later than at the end of their second semester of classes, and begin work with these faculties as research mentors.

Finally, to facilitate and encourage presentation of research results at professional conferences, doctoral students are eligible for a portion of travel expenses to be paid by the department when the student is an author and presenting the paper at the professional conference. These funds are further enhanced and expanded through external funds solicited for this purpose.

### D. Assessment Timeline

Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Assessment SLOs	Examination on Core	Research Proposal I	Annual Evaluation
<b>Knowledge</b>			
#1	X		
<b>Skills</b>			
#2		X	
<b>Professional Behavior</b>			
#3			X

## E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

PhD, Food and Resource Economics

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

August 31

Program Modifications:

Completed by October 15

Dissemination:

Completed by December 15

SLOs	Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
<b>Knowledge</b>					
#1		X	X	X	X
<b>Skills</b>					
#2			X		X
<b>Professional Behavior</b>					
#3		X	X	X	X

## F. Measurement Tools

Measurement tools are still in the developmental stage. The current knowledge SLO s are assessed by the faculty who teach the core courses (AEB 7571 Econometric Methods I, ECO 7115 Microeconomic Theory I, ECO 7408 Math Methods of Applied Economics, ECO 7404 Game Theory for Economists, AEB 7108 Microeconomic Theory II, AEB 7240 Macroeconomic Theory II, AEB 7572 Econometric Methods II and AEB 6933 Advanced Econometrics). These core class instructors then serve as the core exam grading committee. The grades of these core classes are then reviewed by the graduate program office where a C=improvement needed, B=satisfactory skills achieved and A=superior skill achievement. An overall skill level of B, measured by cumulative GPA in the core classes is required. Any student failing to achieve this level is then counseled by the associate chair/graduate coordinator. Additionally, students taking the core exam also meet with the chair, associate chair and the core exam chair to discuss performance on the exam. If performance on the second attempt at the core exam remains below performance expectations it is then this group that informs the student of dismissal from the program.

For the entirety of the PhD program, a student checklist has been developed that assesses the student's progress on SLO #2 through presentation of an acceptable research proposal (admission to candidacy) and submission of the dissertation. Additionally, graduate students are invited and expected to attend the departmental seminar presentation and job interview candidate presentations to glean and enhance their research skills.

In terms of SLO #3, all PhD students are required to complete a UF Student Services Honesty and Ethics training offered during FRED graduate student orientation and recorded on the student checklist (A copy of the student checklist is located in Appendix A). Notations are made regarding observations of professional behavior and any concerns that arise.

## G. Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Ray Huffaker, Chair	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:rhuffaker@ufl.edu">rhuffaker@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7625
Rod Clouser, Assoc. Chair and Graduate Coordinator	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:rclouser@ufl.edu">rclouser@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7623
James Sterns	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:jasterns@ufl.edu">jasterns@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7621
Rick Weldon	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:rweldon@ufl.edu">rweldon@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7635
Lisa House	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:lahouse@ufl.edu">lahouse@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7653
Jeff Burkhardt	Food and Resource Economics	<a href="mailto:burk@ufl.edu">burk@ufl.edu</a>	352-294-7647

## Appendix A PhD Checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UFID: \_\_\_\_\_

First Term/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Final Term/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Funding: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Grant \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Year 1</b>  _____	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Math Camp	_____
	Fall	FRED Orientation	_____
		<i>(includes UF Student Services Honesty/Ethics training)</i>	
		Bio for website	_____
		Assistantship Hire	_____
		Signed LOA	_____
		Performance Evaluation	_____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Spring	Transfer of Credit from MS	_____
		Performance Evaluation	_____
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Summer	Supervisory committee	_____
		Program of Study Complete	_____
		Chosen Fields (2)	_____
			_____
		Core Complete <i>(includes 1<sup>st</sup> yr seminar 6921)</i>	_____
		Core Exam #1	_____
		Core Exam #2	_____
		Performance Evaluation	_____

Comments regarding professional behavior:

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<b>Year 2</b> _____	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Fall	Performance Evaluation	_____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Spring	Performance Evaluation	_____
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Summer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year paper ( <i>includes 2<sup>nd</sup> yr seminar 6934</i> )	_____
		Performance Evaluation	_____

<b>Year 3</b> _____	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Fall	Performance Evaluation	_____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Spring	Performance Evaluation	_____
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Summer	Dissertation Proposal Seminar	_____
		Admission to Candidacy	_____
		Field Exams ( <i>fields should be complete</i> )	_____
		Performance Evaluation	_____

Comments regarding professional behavior:

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<b>Year 4</b> _____	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Fall	Performance Evaluation	_____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
	Spring	Performance Evaluation	_____

3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester	Signed LOA	_____
Summer	Degree Application	_____
	Graduation Check	_____
	Defense	_____
	Submit Defense/Pub Agreement	_____
	First Submission ETD	_____
	Final Submission ETD	_____
	ETD Signature Page	_____
	Exit Surveys	_____
	Performance Evaluation	_____
	Assistantship Termination	_____

Comments regarding professional behavior:

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Core Courses</b>	<b>Grade</b>
AEB 7571	_____
ECO 7115	_____
ECO 7408	_____
AEB 7108	_____
AEB 7240	_____
AEB 7572	_____
AEB 6933	_____