Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design

Degree Offered

• Master of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design

The Master of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design is an interdisciplinary degree that offers advanced study in all areas of agriculture, natural resources, and design. This program provides an opportunity for students to expand on the knowledge and skills they acquired during their undergraduate studies.

Coursework options are varied with a program that enables students to tailor their education to fit individual career goals. This is a non-thesis program, which requires 36 hours of graduate level coursework. A minimum of 18 hours must be selected from graduate courses within two divisions of the Davis College, with no fewer than six hours in either division. A three-hour problem report approved by the graduate committee members is required.

The Master of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design may benefit individuals who want to expand their skills and increase their competitiveness in the job market, wish to improve their chances for admission to a professional school, want to make a career change, or want to start a business.

Career Opportunities

Positions for employment are available in numerous settings including private industry, education, and federal and state government agencies. Graduates may find employment as educators, researchers, agriculturalists, extension agents, conservationists, or may start their own business. Many graduates also enter professional schools and doctoral programs.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the minimum graduate admission requirements of West Virginia University. The student must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and must have had a grade point average of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Applicants to this degree program are asked to identify an advisor from the college faculty and provide a 500-word Statement of Academic and Professional Goals and Objectives. International students have the additional requirement to submit a minimum score of 550 on the paper TOEFL examination or 213 on the electronic TOEFL examination if their native language is not English. A standardized graduate examination score (GRE or MCAT) is not required for admission to this degree, however, it is strongly encouraged.

A candidate for the M.S. degree of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design must meet all University, College, Division, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog.

Degree Requirements

Must maintain an overall grade-point average of 2.75 in all courses completed as a graduate student.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 must be attained in all graduate courses approved by a graduate advisory committee for degree completion.

Course Requirements as determined by the Plan of Study *

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* A minimum of 18 hours must be selected from among graduate courses available within two divisions of the Davis College, with no fewer than 6 hours in either division. No more than 12 hours of independent study may be counted towards the degree.

** A 3-hour problem report approved by the graduate committee members is required. The graduate committee shall consist of at least three members representing at least two divisions with at least two being members of the graduate faculty of the college.

Learning Outcomes

Students earning a Masters of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Design degree will be able to:

• Communicate professional concepts orally and in writing.
• Explain the holistic nature of opportunities and problems pertaining to agriculture, natural resources, or design.
• Explain the role of inquiry and research in addressing opportunities and problems pertaining to agriculture, natural resources, or design.
• Construct a theoretical framework that addresses a particular opportunity or problem in agriculture, natural resources, or design and generalize that framework to aid in understanding similar opportunities or problems.
• Apply research skills to analyze agriculture, natural resources, or design opportunities or problems.