APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College CALS **Department:** School of Human Sciences

Contact Person: Dr. Kirk Swortzel **Mail Stop:** 9745 **E-mail:** kirk.swortzel@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 10/6/23

Current Degree Program Name: Master of Agriculture

Current Major: Agriculture

Current Concentration(s):

Current Campus(es): Distance

New Degree Program Name: _____ **Effective Date:** _____

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

Proposed Major: _____

Proposed Concentration(s): Agricultural and Extension Education

Proposed Campus(es): Distance

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Add the Agricultural and Extension Education concentration to the current Master of Agricult

Approved:	Date:
Sheri Worthy Department Head	12/05/2024
Dana Pamfal Jr Director of Academic Quality	12/10/24
Kashman Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	12/18/2024
(for Scott W. Moll) Dean of College or School	12/20/24
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

GRADUATE DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

Use the chart below to make modifications to an existing Graduate Degree. All deleted courses and information should be shown in *italics* and all new courses and information in **bold**. Please include the course prefix, number, and title in both columns. Expand rows as needed.

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Major: Concentrations:	Degree: Master of Agriculture Major: Agriculture Concentrations: Agricultural & Extension Education
"[Click here and type old degree description]"	**The Master of Agriculture degree is a non-thesis advanced degree designed to prepare graduates for careers or professional schools. Students develop a program of study with approval of the student's graduate committee in accordance with Graduate School policy and course requirements for the concentration.**
"[Click here and type old concentration description]"	**Students are required to complete 30 hours of coursework as approved by the student's graduate committee. Some Directed Individual Study courses, numbered at the 7000-level, may be approved to meet 8000-level course requirements. Not more than 6 hours of graduate credit may be earned in Directed Individual Study courses. Students will also complete a scholarly project focused on their career goals and subject area. The student must pass the final defense of the scholarly project and complete an oral comprehensive examination over all course work completed. This program is offered through MS State Online.** **Students in the Agricultural and Extension Education Concentration will complete the following courses: AELC 8203, AELC 8243 or AELC 8413, AELC 8503 or AELC 8153, AELC 8593, AELC 8703, and AELC 8100 (3 hours). The remaining 12 hours will be advisor approved electives.**

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	**PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE**	Required Hours
College Required Courses		College Required Courses No college required courses.	
Major Required Courses		Major Required Courses No major required courses	
Concentration 1. Courses		**Agricultural and Extension Education Concentration Courses** **AELC 8100 – Creative Component** **AELC 8203 – Advanced Communications**	 **3** **3**

		in AEE **AELC 8243 – Administration and Supervision OR AELC 8413 – Methods of Planned Change** **AELC 8503 – Program Planning and Development in AEE OR AELC 8153 – Curriculum Development in Agricultural Education** **AELC 8593 – Historical Foundations of AEE** **AELC 8703 – Evaluation of Ag and Extension Education** **Graduate level coursework**	 **3** **3** **3** **3** **12**
Concentration 2. Courses			
Total Hours		**Total Hours**	**30**

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING OFFERING

Agricultural and Extension Education Concentration: For many years, the Agricultural and Extension Education graduate program has offered graduate courses at a distance, first starting with compressed video in the 1990's and later moving to interactive video in the early 2000's. Today, we offer our graduate courses via interactive video, asynchronous delivery, and synchronous delivery. However, with the nature of the current work environments of our potential and current students, it is becoming increasingly difficult to complete required courses during normal working hours and even after hours with commitments to programs of students advise and family responsibilities. Offering an online graduate program, like the Master of Agriculture with a concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education, will provide flexibility for students to earn an advanced degree while fulfilling their work and family obligations.

Another reason for offering this concentration at a distance as an asynchronous program is to reach potential students from surrounding states. For many years, the AEE graduate program was on the Academic Common Market with surrounding states. In recent years, those states have removed our program from the Academic Common Market to keep students with their respective states to complete graduate degree programs. We still receive several inquiries from former graduates who wish to pursue a graduate degree with us. Providing this concentration through distance education as an asynchronous program as part of the MAG program will allow us to reach a greater pool of students from not only in the southern region, but across the nation hopefully.

1. Will this program change meet local, state, regional, and national educational and cultural needs? The

addition of this concentration to the MAG program at Mississippi State University provides an additional opportunity for those employed in professional agriculture careers to advance their knowledge and skills working on the human side of agriculture. Courses that students complete as part of the AEE concentration will help those in agricultural careers more effectively plan, deliver, and evaluate training and development programs in agriculture while expanding their knowledge in agricultural subjects. Furthermore, with this concentration being delivered asynchronously as part of the MAG program will allow potential students to complete a program that is flexible around their work and life schedules.

2. Will this program change result in duplication in the System? No

3. Will this program change/advance student diversity within the discipline? Yes, with this concentration being offered through MS State Online, this will advance student diversity within Agricultural and Extension Education and will provide a more flexible, inclusive, and accessible program for students to complete.

4. Will this program change result in an increase in the potential placement of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the U.S.? Yes - This concentration should result in more Extension and training & development professionals in agricultural careers advance in their occupations and become more effective in doing their jobs.

5. Will this program change result in an increase in the potential salaries of graduates in MS, the Southeast, and the U.S.? Yes - Graduates from this concentration in the MAG will be more qualified and skilled for their respective agricultural careers. Specifically, graduates from this concentration will be more qualified to advance to more skilled positions within their respective organizations, which typically provides for an increase in salary.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

The intended target audience for the MAG (concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education) are professionals like extension agents, secondary agricultural education teachers, or others who work companies in training and development positions who are unable to take time during the normal business day to complete classes.

5. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes for the MAG (concentration in Agricultural and Extension Education) are:

- Plan formal and non-formal educational programs based on community and stakeholder needs.
- Apply evaluation methodologies to improve formal and non-formal educational programs.
- Communicate agricultural information in an effective manner to clientele.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

Spring 2025

7. CONTACT PERSON

Dr. Kirk Swortzel, Graduate Coordinator
662-325-7837
kirk.swortzel@msstate.edu

8. SUPPORT

A letter of support is included from the School of Human Sciences Curriculum Committee

9. PROPOSED ABBREVIATIONS

MAG-AEE

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SCIENCES
P. O. Box 9745
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2950
humansci.msstate.edu

December 2, 2024

Dr. N. Krishnan
Chair, CALS Curriculum Committee
MS State, MS 39762

Dear Dr. Krishnan,

The School of Human Sciences Curriculum Committee affirms support for the Master of Agriculture – Agricultural and Extension Education degree proposal and the following course modifications/proposals: AELC 8100, AELC 8203, AELC 8503, AELC 8153.

Sincerely,

Carley Morrison (Dec 3, 2024 17:00 CST)

Carley Calico Morrison, Chair

Jessica Benson (Dec 4, 2024 14:17 CST)

Jessica Benson

Justin Hall (Dec 4, 2024 15:07 CST)

Justin Hall

Cappe Hallberg

Cappe Hallberg (Dec 4, 2024 15:02 CST)

Cappe Hallberg

Farhana Momotaz

Farhana Momotaz (Dec 4, 2024 16:22 CST)

Farhana Momotaz

Chelsea Pansé-Barone (Dec 4, 2024 18:27 EST)

Chelsea Pansé-Barone

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Final Audit Report 2024-12-04

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By:	Carley Morrison (cpc215@msstate.edu)
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Signer Chelsea Panse (cp1992@msstate.edu) entered name at signing as Chelsea Panse-Barone
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