The Division of Agricultural Education is dedicated to serving the needs of all students and agricultural professionals through a dynamic and comprehensive program of rural leadership, technology, science and proven educational practices. The program is grounded in basic and applied research aimed at improving professional and technical skills in the realm of Montana agriculture.

The graduate program in Agricultural Education at Montana State University is designed to prepare graduates for entry into or advancement in formal and non-formal teaching careers, while also providing development of professional skills for other careers in agribusiness, government service, extension and adult education. With its various options, a master’s degree in agricultural education can be tailored to meet each student’s career goals. In addition to the professional courses in agricultural education, offerings are also available from all academic departments in the College of Agriculture, including Agricultural Economics, Animal and Range Sciences, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, and Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology. Specialization in areas such as adult education, educational administration, career education and curriculum coordination are also available through cooperation with the College of Education, Health and Human Development.

ONLINE MASTER’S DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The online degree program is designed to meet the needs of professional agricultural educators by allowing them to continue their education while still working. Online graduate level courses allow the completion of a Master’s of Science degree in Agricultural Education in approximately two years. The degree is designed to improve graduates’ hard and soft skills in agricultural education and extension.
Key Program Features:

- Complete 30 credits in approximately six semesters, enrolling in a minimum of six credits per semester and three credits in the summer.
- All courses offered online.
- Asynchronous coursework.
- Written exam and professional paper in lieu of a thesis.
- Limited face-to-face interaction required.

Program Requirements

The program offers considerable flexibility to students to help them meet their professional and personal objectives. Plan A students are required to take 20 credits of course work and 10 credits of thesis preparation. Plan B students are required to take 24 credits of course work and 6 credits of professional paper preparation. The final selection of the student's research activity will be the student's responsibility in collaboration with the advisor and the graduate committee.

Required Core Courses:

- Research Methods
- Graduate Seminar
- Program Planning and Evaluation
- Educational Statistics

Admission

To apply for admission, contact the Division of Agricultural Education first. Then submit a formal application to The Graduate School. The following materials are needed for a complete application:

- Official GRE scores (score of 300 or above; combined verbal and quantitative; verbal section minimum 152). Score of 3.5 or higher on the GRE analytical writing section.
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Three letters of reference
- Statement of purpose for pursuing a Master's degree
- International Students: Official TOEFL (213)/IELTS (7.0) scores & Financial certificate.

Admission

- June 1 for fall
- Oct 15 for spring
- Feb 15 for summer

Financial Assistance

Teaching and research assistantships may be available for qualified on-campus students. Interested students should request an assistantship application from the Division of Agricultural Education.

Faculty

- Carl Igo, PhD., Associate Professor; Agricultural Literacy, Leadership, Research methods, Teacher education; (406) 994-3693; cigo@montana.edu
- Shannon Arnold, PhD., Assistant Professor; Extension education, Professional development, Leadership education, Program development; (406) 994-6663; shannon.arnold@montana.edu