



West Texas A&M  
University

# Department of Agricultural Sciences *Ph.D. in Agriculture*



New Agricultural Sciences Complex opens Summer 2018

# Graduate Studies

*Your passport to new worlds!*

# Department of Agricultural Sciences

## Ph.D. Degree Program

### *Ph.D. in Agriculture*

- Ph.D. in Agriculture with research emphasis in:
  - Agricultural Business & Economics
  - Agricultural Education (5 years experience teaching agricultural science in U.S. high school required)
- Animal Science
- Plant, Soil & Environmental Science



### *The Department*

West Texas A&M University (WTAMU), a member of The Texas A&M University System, is centered in the midst of diverse agricultural opportunities. We serve the nation's largest cattle-feeding region and utilize the excellent agronomic conditions for the production of wheat, corn, sorghum, cotton, soybeans, peanuts and vegetable crops. Other areas supporting the Department of Agricultural Sciences include the Dryland Agriculture Institute, the Beef Carcass Research Center, the Equine Industry and Business Program and the Feedlot Research Group.

The Department of Agricultural Sciences provides the graduate academic program for the Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Team (CREET). Team members include the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo; U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) at Bushland; and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at Amarillo. Students have the opportunity to interact with more than 60 scientists and engineers through these agencies. The Department of Agricultural Sciences also has close working relationships with Texas Cattle Feeders Association, American Quarter Horse Association, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Wheat Producers Association, National Sorghum Producers and Texas Corn Producers Association. The department is a member of the Consortium for Cattle Feeding and Environmental Sciences.



Alpha, WTAMU's Prime, Yield Grade 1 cloned bull



### *The Program and Facilities*

The Ph. D. degree program in the Department of Agricultural Sciences is designed to prepare graduates with knowledge of agricultural principles to be used to think critically and solve problems. Students not only have the opportunity to receive training from internationally renowned scientists on the WTAMU faculty but also with researchers from Texas A&M AgriLife, USDA-ARS, and other research agencies. The new Agriculture Science Complex includes state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, pavilion, arena, USDA-inspected meat laboratory complete with harvest, fabrication, processed and ready-to-eat meats, sensory lab and retail sales (opens Summer 2018). The department also has a 2,500 acre Nance Ranch, 1,000-head feedyard with feedmill, horse center and greenhouse complex to support teaching and research.

## ***Areas of Faculty Research***

The faculty are conducting research in the disciplines of agribusiness, agricultural business & economics, agricultural education & leadership, agricultural media & communication, animal science, beef cattle nutrition & health management, dryland agriculture, entomology, equine nutrition & exercise physiology, integrated pest management, meat science, and plant, soil & environmental science. For more details of faculty research, see the faculty bio's [here](#).

## ***Graduate Research Assistantships***

The department has a limited number of research assistantships and scholarships available on a competitive basis. Students interested in a research assistantship are **strongly encouraged** to visit campus and meet with the faculty.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### ***Who takes this program?***

- Students who have a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science degree (thesis preferred) with at least one degree in an agricultural or closely related discipline
- Students who want to be leaders in the agricultural industry are trained in a multidisciplinary, research-based curriculum that emphasizes a systems approach to problem solving

### ***How does the program work?***

- Traditional classroom courses with some offered in late afternoon or evening to accommodate students who work.
- Each student will complete a series of research projects and write a dissertation of appropriate length and rigor.
- Each student will have an advisory committee that will administer written and oral qualifying examinations. After completion of course work and research projects, the student will defend their dissertation research.
- Information about the Ph.D. degree program is [here](#). Requirements for the Ph.D. degree program in Agricultural Sciences are [here](#).

### ***How will this degree benefit me?***

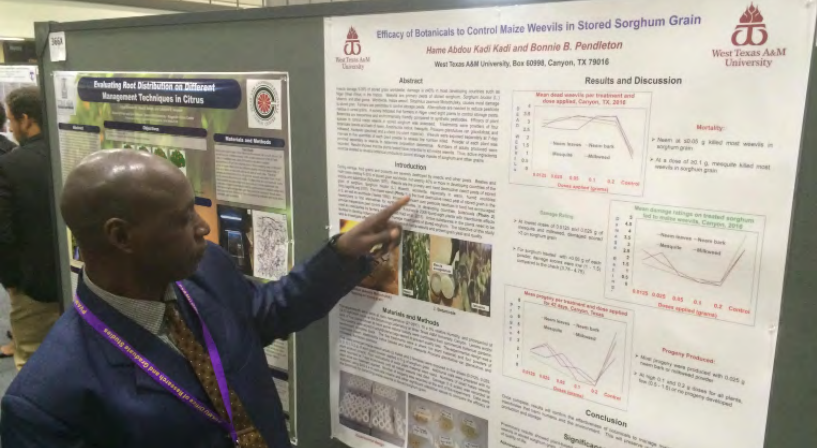
Students completing the program requirements will be able to demonstrate:

- Advanced technical knowledge of agricultural principles with an emphasis on multidisciplinary issues faced by agriculture and the use of a systems approach to problem solving
- Ability to conduct research on a focused problem, but using a holistic approach to understand how the problem relates to agricultural systems as a whole
- Ability to effectively communicate technical information and explain complex agricultural issues by writing scientific publications and delivering verbal presentations and lectures
- Professionalism, leadership, and ethics related to agricultural sciences

### ***Employment of Graduates***

Students that have graduated with the Ph.D. degree currently hold positions in teaching, research and extension at colleges and universities, and technical support positions in agricultural firms.

**For more information, contact:  
Coordinator of Graduate Admissions  
Department of Agricultural Sciences  
West Texas A&M University  
WTAMU Box 60998  
Canyon, TX 79016-0001  
E-mail: [agscgradprgm@wtamu.edu](mailto:agscgradprgm@wtamu.edu)**



## Admission Requirements and Deadlines

- Must have a bachelor's degree and a master's degree (thesis preferred) from accredited institutions with at least one degree in an agricultural or closely related discipline
- Must have a dissertation committee chair to supervise coursework and thesis research projects
- GPA of  $\geq 3.5$  from master's degree or  $\geq 3.0$  on master's coursework (excluding thesis, research, problems or directed studies)
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Additional requirements for International students include:
  - Official transcripts, mark sheets, graduation certificates, etc., with certified English translations from all colleges and universities attended
  - Submit Foreign Credential Evaluation of foreign transcripts and documents
  - TOEFL ( $\geq 79$  iBT) or IELTS ( $\geq 6.0$ ) or PTE ( $\geq 53$ ) score
- The Department of Agricultural Sciences has a secondary application process ("Application for Graduate Studies") that will be sent to the student once they have applied to the University, sent official transcripts, and it has been determined that the student meets the minimum GPA requirements. The "Application for Graduate Studies" includes reference forms to be completed by three individuals knowledgeable about the applicant, and essay questions to be completed by the applicant. Also, the applicant must include an updated vita or resume.

**Deadlines:** Fall semester – July 1, Spring semester – November 1, Summer session – April 1

**Deadlines for International Students:** Fall semester – June 1, Spring semester – November 1

### Notes:

- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.
- After all documentation has been evaluated by the Department of Agricultural Sciences, the application file will be forwarded to the appropriate faculty for review.
- Decisions about whether you are eligible for a doctoral research assistantship are not made until a faculty member has accepted the applicant into the doctoral program.
- Meeting minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into the doctoral degree program and/or a doctoral research assistantship.

## Information for Prospective Graduate Students

To assist you in finding additional information, the following links to our website and catalog may be helpful.

- Visit the Agricultural Sciences' webpage [here](#) to learn about our graduate programs by looking at the faculty pages, their bios and personal web pages. As a member of CREET, WTAMU has a footprint reaching beyond our campus. Your graduate committee may include professionals from any of these organizations, and from the area agricultural industry. You may find further information on CREET [here](#).
- To apply to the university and the graduate program, go [here](#) or [here](#).
- The WTAMU catalog is [here](#). Choose the latest Graduate Catalog available for information pertaining to your degree program. Information on the Graduate School can be selected from the gray sidebar on the left, such as: "Admission to Graduate School," "Course Descriptions," "Degree and Program Offerings" and/or "College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences."
- The cost of attending WTAMU can be calculated using the "Cost Estimator" [here](#) or by using "Cost of Attending" tables [here](#) and scroll down to find the appropriate semester "Graduate Rate Table."