IMAGINE YOURSELF IN

Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics

PUTTING BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS INTO ACTION
around the globe and close to home
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS IN ACTION

The Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) puts business skills and economics knowledge into action. ACE combines technical knowledge of the food, agribusiness, environmental, and consumer sectors with expertise in management, accounting, marketing, policy, and finance. The result is graduates equipped to analyze, to communicate, and to make decisions.

In a world with more than eight billion people (and growing), rising affluence, and finite natural resources, a major in ACE prepares students for a role in the challenges of feeding and clothing the world’s population and financing their aspirations.

ADMISSIONS GUIDANCE

Students admitted to the University of Illinois are high achievers. When you apply to ACE:

+ Many factors in a student’s academic experience are considered, not just a GPA or a ranking.
+ The strength of academic challenges counts in addition to grades. Rigorous math classes are highly valued.
+ Leadership and volunteer experiences are assets, particularly if sustained over time.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Many scholarships are available to ACE students. A single application allows you to be considered for all scholarships. The scholarship application period is April 15 to June 1 each year. See academics.aces.illinois.edu for more information and the application.

In addition to department and college scholarships, the University of Illinois Office of Financial Aid awards assistance from federal, state, university, and private resources to help defray education expenses. For more information about financial aid, visit www.osfa.illinois.edu.

THE U OF I AND THE COLLEGE OF ACSES

The University of Illinois, a world leader in research, teaching, and public engagement, is distinguished by the breadth of its programs, its broad academic excellence, and its internationally renowned faculty.

The College of ACSES prepares you to make a difference in the world. Graduates of our college answer complex questions and develop innovative solutions to improve agricultural systems; provide safe, nutritious food supplies; identify clean, renewable energy sources; strengthen families and communities; and protect the environment. The scope of the college has broadened dramatically since its founding in 1867. Its purpose, however, remains focused on advancing scientific knowledge that makes life better, healthier, safer, and more profitable for people in Illinois and around the globe.

The University of Illinois “return on investment”—basically the expected salary over a 30-year period—is the highest in the Big Ten and among all Midwestern colleges offering similar programs. It’s an investment that will bring returns for the rest of your life.

ACE Facts

+ Our undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio is 20:1.
+ More than 40% of our students participate in an international experience during their 4-year undergraduate degree.
+ Two out of three ACE students have an integrated learning experience during their career—either an internship, research experience, capstone course, or course with a travel component.
+ ACE offers strong advising and career assistance. To apply, go to admissions.illinois.edu.

Consider a visit to campus. Our ACE Ambassadors and undergraduate students can help answer your questions and discuss what it’s like to be an Illini!
ONE MAJOR, NINE OPTIONS

ACE offers nine concentrations spanning applied business and public policy fields.

BUSINESS-ORIENTED CONCENTRATIONS

Agri-Accounting
Prepare for a career in corporate accounting or pursue a graduate degree leading to the Certified Public Accountant exam.

Agribusiness Markets and Management
Explore commodity trading and business management strategies through hands-on work in food and environmental industries, from small start-ups to Fortune 500 global corporations.

Consumer Economics and Finance
Study financial issues facing consumers in the marketplace and family economics.

Farm Management
Explore finance, risk management, and economics as applied to managing a complex farm enterprise or owning rural real estate.

Finance in Agribusiness
Prepare to meet the capital acquisition and investment needs of large and small agribusiness or financial institutions.

Financial Planning
Prepare to help individuals and families invest wisely, acquire major assets, afford advanced education, and prepare for retirement. Graduates meet the educational requirements to take the Certified Financial Planner exam.

POLICY-ORIENTED CONCENTRATIONS

Environmental Economics and Policy
Learn about environmental and resource management policies at the local, national, and international levels.

Policy, International Trade and Development
Focus on international development issues while gaining valuable preparation for economics or government work in an international setting.

Public Policy and Law
Apply the economics of public policy to the food and consumer sector. Graduates work in policy development and implementation, and many go on to law school.

ACE’S FLEXIBILITY WORKS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

The core of common classes in ACE introduces you to economics, finance, marketing, quantitative methods, and laws and policies important to the consumer, agribusiness, and food industries.

Our program is flexible. As an ACE major, you may complement required courses with classes outside the concentration, from other programs, in other university departments, and through studying abroad.

Coursework in ACE is supplemented by field trips, credit-generating internships and study-abroad experiences, national student competitions, and more than 1,000 student organizations. Students are also encouraged to get involved in ACE-specific organizations such as the Financial Planning Club, the National Ag-Managing Association student chapter, and the ACE Club.

An ACE major gives you flexibility in the job market as well. You can work for a Fortune 500 company, but you are also recruited by local, regional, and international firms and by non-governmental organizations.

Hands-on learning is the ACE standard:

+ Executives and professionals regularly visit ACE classes.
+ Case studies let you apply knowledge to real-world situations.
+ Individual and group projects build your competencies.
+ Internship opportunities provide job experience.
+ Computer classes enhance your technical skills.
+ Career guidance from expert faculty and staff lands you a job!
EXPERIENCE THE REAL WORLD
ACE emphasizes experiential learning.

International Business Immersion Program
This semester-long class studies the food value chain in a specific part of the world. Then, in a two-week immersion trip, students travel to the area they have studied to see food supply chains firsthand. So far, the program has studied Brazil, Europe, and China. For more information, visit www.ibip.illinois.edu.

International Development and Agribusiness in Sierra Leone
Students take classes at Njala University in the West African country of Sierra Leone, then complete a month-long internship at a global agribusiness or non-profit organization to apply what they have learned in the classroom.

Policy Development and Leadership
Students learn from leaders framing state and national policy in the food, consumer, and agribusiness sectors through a five-on-campus class. Afterward they travel to either Washington, D.C. or California, where they are exposed to the policy-making process and see leadership in action.

Chicago Agribusiness and Financial Markets
The role of the food and agribusiness sectors in nearby Chicago is studied through a course, then followed by a four-day immersion in the city to explore contemporary issues with leaders in the business, government, and trading industries.

“The faculty and impactful student organizations allowed me opportunities that I don’t believe I would have had at any other school. Professionally, U of I is the most reputable four-year undergraduate program in the Midwest that would have allowed me to sit for the CFP [Certified Financial Planner] exam before most of my peers had graduated.”

STEPHEN KAWASAKI
Financial Planning graduate

Find a job with ACE
ACE has a proven tradition training future leaders in Illinois, the Midwest, the nation, and the world.

ACE emphasizes career skills:
+
Skills in business matched with a technical knowledge of the food and agribusiness industry
+
Interpersonal skills to work effectively with others in your industry
+
Communication skills to write, speak, and listen successfully
+
Decision-making skills for a global marketplace

ACE students are prepared for exciting careers in finance, commodity marketing, business management, and policy development in the in the agribusiness, food, environmental, and consumer sectors.

“ACE is a premier research department that allowed me to extensively learn about agricultural economics, partake in several job shadow opportunities, and conduct research with an exceptional professor. ACE sets itself apart through its approachable, world-class faculty. I always felt that I could speak with my professors, and they were always willing to take the time to meet with me and assist all students.”

ALYSSA TALK
U of I Law Student/Environmental Economics and Policy graduate
Top 5 reasons you should choose ACE

1. Award-winning faculty who are leaders in their fields teach your classes and work with you one-on-one.

2. Career opportunities abound close to home, around the United States, and abroad.

3. In the excitement of a Big Ten university atmosphere, you receive personal attention and direction from advisors and faculty members who know you by name.

4. Our students are heavily recruited for high-demand jobs, and many are accepted to professional or graduate school upon graduation.

5. Our first-rate experiential learning program lets you immerse yourself in exciting hands-on opportunities in the nation’s capital and on other continents, enhancing your competitiveness.