



ILLINOIS

Department of
Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Cultivating
Future Leaders



The decisions of government have far-reaching impacts on agriculture. To help ensure that public policies are sensible and effective, society needs well-trained, knowledgeable leaders. The Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics (ACE) is developing a pipeline of leaders through challenging coursework, experiential learning, hands-on internships, and exposure to accomplished professionals.

A solid understanding of public policy and knowledge of sound science coupled with effective advocacy skills positions ACE students to shape change in government, business, and nonprofit organizations. Private investments will make these rich opportunities more financially accessible to students.



EXPLORING CAREERS

Through leadership policy internships, ACE students are exposed to the opportunities and challenges of local, state, and national policymaking arenas. These internships lay the foundation for careers, organizational leadership roles, and even political aspirations. Policy internships are plentiful, but they typically do not include compensation.

“My internship experience in DC completely transformed my view of national policy, opened new doors, and created a lasting network of relationships and leadership opportunities in my community.”

CATHRYN AYERS // '13 Agribusiness, Markets & Management

EXPANDING PERSPECTIVES

Through ACE's Experiential Learning Program, students see how policy impacts agriculture in their backyard, across the country, and around the globe.

Going outside the classroom to interact with policymakers and influencers in Washington, DC, and beyond exposes students to the policy development process firsthand. ACE immersion experiences build students' understanding of how a policy's impact can vary in different locations. Students gain awareness of the diversity of agriculture across regions of the United States through a course anchored by a week-long study tour in California. Students also learn how to engage in issues related to food, agriculture, consumers, and the environment.

“Getting outside of the classroom was everything in this course; it would not have had nearly the same impact otherwise. Learning about producers' challenges and their responses to those challenges gave me a much better understanding of the types of things we see from the consumer's perspective.”

REGINA CORTEZ // ACES Graduate Student

INSPIRING LEADERS

Interactions, including guest lectures, with accomplished leaders introduce students to careers in public policy and identify various avenues to impact society. These leaders, who often have backgrounds similar to ACE students, offer both inspiration and practical insights about leadership and public engagement.

ACE seeks to develop a Leadership in Residence Program, building on a minor in Leadership Studies in the College of ACES. For extended periods, ACE will host leaders from business, government, and academia to share their essentials of successful leadership.



CONTACT US

To learn more about helping to cultivate future policy influencers, please contact us:

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“Personally meeting top leaders in agriculture and seeing their passion inspires me to pursue a career in agricultural policy.”

SARAH HOCHMAN // ACE Undergraduate Student

COLLEGE OF
ACES