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: Agriculture and Life Sciences **Department:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

Contact Person: Kelsey Harvey **Mail Stop:** 9389 **E-mail:** ks3114@msstate.edu
Nature of Change: Degree modification **Date Initiated:** 4/15/2023 **Effective Date:** 1/1/2024
Current Degree Program Name: Master of Agriculture

Major: Agriculture **Concentration:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

New Degree Program Name: Master of Agriculture

Major: Agriculture **Concentration:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

Summary of Proposed Changes:
Students will no longer be required to complete 2 hours of graduate seminar and 8 hours of statistics. Students will now be required to complete 1 hour each of graduate seminar and journal club, and 3 hours of statistics. Additionally, students will be required to complete 13 hours and 6 hours of graduate level coursework in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and outside of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, respectively.

A comprehensive final report or creative component that addresses a current issue or opportunity related to animal agriculture on an approved topic of the student's choosing will replace the scholarly activity and document.

Approved:	Date:
Joe Street Department Head	04/17/2023
Dana Pomykal Franz Director of Academic Quality	4/19/2023
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	8/7/23
(for Scott-Wilhoit) Dean of College or School	8/11/23
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.

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The Master of Agriculture degree is a non-thesis advanced degree designed to prepare graduates for careers or professional schools. A concentration is selected and students develop a program of study with approval by the student's graduate committee in accordance with Graduate School policy and course requirements for the concentration.

2. GRADUATE DEGREE MODIFICATION OUTLINE FORM

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Master of Agriculture Major: Agriculture Concentrations: Animal and Dairy Sciences	Degree: Master of Agriculture Major: Agriculture Concentrations: Animal and Dairy Sciences
The Master of Agriculture degree is a non-thesis advanced degree designed to prepare graduates for careers or professional schools. A concentration is selected and students develop a program of study with approval by the student's graduate committee in accordance with Graduate School policy and course requirements for the concentration.	The Master of Agriculture degree is a non-thesis advanced degree designed to prepare graduates for careers or professional schools. A concentration is selected and students develop a program of study with approval by the student's graduate committee in accordance with Graduate School policy and course requirements for the concentration.
Students are required to complete 30 hours of coursework as approved by the graduate committee. Some Directed Individual Study courses, numbered at the 7000-level, may be approved to meet the 8000-level course requirement. Not more than 6 hours of graduate credit may be earned in Directed Individual Study courses. *Students will also have to complete a scholarly activity, participate in research projects, and develop a scholarly document focused on subject area.*	Students are required to complete 30 hours of coursework as approved by the graduate committee. **At least 12 hours of coursework must be at the 8000 level.** Some Directed Individual Study courses, numbered at the 7000-level, may be approved to meet the 8000-level course requirement. Not more than 6 hours of graduate credit may be earned in Directed Individual Study courses. **Students will also have to develop a comprehensive final report or creative component. This report will cover a current issue to be addressed, or an opportunity to be seized related to animal agriculture on a topic of their choice under the approval of the graduate advisory committee.**

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	**PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE**	Required Hours
College Required Courses No college required courses	0	College Required Courses No college required courses	0
Major Required Courses No major required courses	0	Major Required Courses No major required courses	0
Concentration 1. Courses Animal and Dairy Sciences Courses: Graduate Seminar (ADS 8111 is	*2*	Concentration 1. Courses Animal and Dairy Sciences Courses: **Journal Club (ADS 8441 is suggested**	**1**

suggested course) Statistics (*ST 8114* and *ADS 8004* are suggested courses) Biochemistry (ADS 8333 BCH 6013, *G*CH 6603, or BCH 6613 are suggested courses) Directed individual Study *Graduate level coursework with at least 12 hours at the 8000 level*	 *8* 3 3 *14*	**course)** Graduate Seminar (ADS 8111 is suggested course) Statistics (**See Graduate Coordinator for a List of Approved Courses**) Biochemistry (ADS 8333 BCH 6013, **B**CH 6603, or BCH 6613 are suggested courses) Directed individual Study **Graduate level coursework within the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences (ADS 6523, ADS 6553, ADS 6633, ADS 8133, ADS 8153, ADS 8162, ADS 8243, and ADS 8533 are suggested courses)** **Graduate level coursework outside the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences (See Graduate Coordinator for a List of Approved Courses)**	 **1** **3** 3 3 **13** **6**
Concentration 2. Courses		Concentration 2. Courses	
Total Hours	30	Total Hours	30

3. JUSTIFICATION AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The justification of this program is outlined below as part of the learning outcomes (no research and thesis component, thus more feasible). This program is based on a total of 30 credit hours and is available 100% online. This form of education provides accessible, flexible, and inclusive education to non-traditional students, such as working professionals. Upon completion of this program, students will be able to effectively communicate knowledge, and be protagonists in decision making circles of agriculture.

1. The proposed program change requires students to take courses in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and outside of the Department. Courses in ADS should be specialized courses chosen by each student to meet their own interests within the Animal and Dairy Sciences course catalogue. This will represent the flexible portion within the concentration to adapt to the individual student's needs. Courses outside of the Department attends to the interests of the individual student. Further, to assess the student's knowledge and achievement of outcomes relevant to the degree, students will be evaluated on the development of a comprehensive final report or creative component. This report will cover a current issue to be addressed, or an opportunity to be seized related to animal agriculture on a topic of their choice and under the approval of the graduate advisory committee. This report will differ from a traditional Master thesis given that it will not contain a hypothesis and original research but will be aimed at supporting the creation of a tool, process, or product to be utilized in a practical setting by the student upon graduation.

2. No, this program change will not result in duplication in the system.

3. Yes, this program modification will advance student diversity within the discipline. The program is offered 100% online, and designed to be flexible, inclusive, and accessible.

4. Yes, this program with result in an increase of potential placement of graduates in MS, the SE, and the US. The program changes are intended to graduate well-rounded students exposed to a variety of agricultural disciplines, focusing on Animal and Dairy Sciences.

5. Yes, this program will result in an increase in the potential salaries of graduates in MS, the SE, and the US. Overall, the educational objectives of the degree programs are to provide students with learning opportunities to make them more qualified and more skilled for employment in the fields of agriculture. Specifically in Animal and Dairy Sciences, the program will prepare students for careers in the animal industries by enhancing technical skills, communication skills, and scientific literacy.

4. SUPPORT

See attached.

5. PROPOSED 4 LETTER ABBREVIATION

ADSC

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 2024

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL AND DAIRY SCIENCES
Box 9815
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.3378
F. 662.325.8873

April 15, 2023

University Committee on Courses and Curriculum
279 Garner Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dr. Perkins,

The Graduate Curriculum Committee in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences voted unanimously and fully supports the degree modifications to the Master of Agriculture in Animal and Dairy Sciences. This is an effort to provide accessible, flexible, and inclusive education to non-traditional students, such as working professionals. More specifically, the following modifications are proposed:

- Required hours:
  - One hour of graduate seminar.
  - One hour of journal club.
  - Three hours of statistics.
  - Thirteen hours of graduate level coursework within the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.
  - Six hours of graduate level coursework outside of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.
  - Students will still be expected to complete 3 hours biochemistry and 3 hours of directed individual study.
- Students must develop a comprehensive final report or creative component that will address a current issue or opportunity related to animal agriculture on an approved topic of their choice.

The degree modifications aim to prepare students for careers in the animal industries by enhancing technical skills, communication skills, and scientific literacy.

Graduate Curriculum Committee Members include:

Clay Cavinder	Clay Cavinder (Apr 6, 2023 16:01 CDT)
Derris Devost-Burnett	
Kelsey Harvey	Kelsey Harvey Kelsey Harvey (Apr 6, 2023 16:56 CDT)
Dean Jousan	Dean Jousan Dean Jousan (Apr 7, 2023 13:12 CDT)
Brandi Karisch	Brandi Karisch Brandi Karisch (Apr 10, 2023 09:54 CDT)
Jamie Larson (Chair)	
Caleb Lemley	Caleb Lemley Caleb Lemley (Apr 6, 2023 15:39 CDT)
Shengfa Liao	Shengfa Liao Shengfa Liao (Apr 6, 2023 16:14 CDT)
Marcus McGee	Marcus McGee
Jean Nguekam Feugang	Jean M Feugang Jean M Feugang (Apr 6, 2023 17:32 CDT)
Molly Nicodemus	Molly Nicodemus (Apr 6, 2023 16:44 CDT)
Jane Parish	Jane Parish (Apr 6, 2023 15:50 CDT)
Leyla Rios de Alvarez	Leyla Rios de Alvarez Leyla Rios de Alvarez (Apr 7, 2023 15:47 CDT)
Brian Rude	Brian J. Rude Brian J. Rude (Apr 7, 2023 10:47 CDT)
Trent Smith	Trent Smith Trent Smith (Apr 6, 2023 15:41 CDT)
Amanda Stone	Amanda Stone Amanda Stone (Apr 10, 2023 15:44 CDT)
Rhonda Vann	Rhonda Vann Rhonda Vann (Apr 6, 2023 16:07 CDT)

Kelsey Harvey
Assistant Professor
Master of Agriculture Distance Program Graduate Coordinator
2181 ADS Building