Washington State University
MAJOR CHANGE FORM - - REQUIREMENTS
(Submit original signed form and TEN copies to the Registrar's Office, zip 1035.)
See https://www.ronet.wsu.edu/ROPub/Apps/HomePage.ASP for this form.

*Submit an additional copy to the Faculty Senate Office, French Administration 338, zip 1038.

Department Name  Master of Science in Agriculture

1. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.
   *☐ Change department/program name from ____________________________ to ____________________________
   *☐ New degree or program in ____________________________
   *☐ Change name of degree from ____________________________ to ____________________________
   *☐ Drop degree or program in ____________________________
   *☐ Extend existing degree or program to ____________________________ campus
     ☐ New Major in ____________________________
     ☐ Change name of Major from ____________________________ to ____________________________
     ☐ Revise Major requirements in Master of Science in Agriculture ____________________________
     ☐ Drop Major in ____________________________
     ☐ Revise certification requirements for the Major in ____________________________
     ☐ New Option in ____________________________
     ☐ Revise requirements for the Option in ____________________________
     ☐ Drop Option in ____________________________
     ☐ New Minor in ____________________________
     ☐ Revise Minor requirements in ____________________________
     ☐ Drop Minor in ____________________________
     ☐ New Undergraduate Certificate in ____________________________
     ☐ Revise Undergraduate Certificate requirements in ____________________________
     ☐ Drop Undergraduate Certificate in ____________________________
     ☐ Other ____________________________

Effective term/year  2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amy Sharp</th>
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<td>Contact Person</td>
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2. GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST MARKED ABOVE. (Attach additional paper if necessary; see reverse side.)

4. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.

Chair Signature/date  Dean Signature/date  General Education Com/date

Catalog Subcom/date  Academic Affairs Com/date  Graduate Studies Com/date  Senate/Date
Rationale:

Requiring STATS 412 and 512 and AGRI 587 as the M.S. in Agriculture core will ensure that graduates of the program are consistently prepared with the knowledge necessary to produce their own research as well as interpret and analyze the research of others. Without these core requirements, graduates of M.S. in Agriculture have varying levels of skill in understanding and producing academic research. These skills should be essential for graduates of Master of Science programs.
Thesis Option:
Components of the thesis option (a minimum of 30 credits is required):

- 21 hours minimum of graded coursework:
  - 15 hours minimum of graded coursework at the 500-level, which can include 3 hours maximum of seminar courses; and up to 6 hours maximum in non-graduate graded coursework (300 – 400 level only)
  - 4 hours minimum of AGRI 700 credit that includes:
    - Preparation of a formal thesis/research paper (AGRI 700 credits)
      - Note that every semester all full-time MS in Ag students are required to enroll in a minimum of one credit hour of AGRI 700
      - Part-time students are not required to enroll in AGRI 700 every semester but still must meet the 4-credit minimum for a thesis master's degree
    - Two-part final exam (requires the student to be registered for 2 credits of AGRI 700 in the term when the exam is held):
    - Public seminar where the student presents the results of the research project
    - Oral exam that focuses on defense of the research project, attended by all committee members

*Thesis-option students must meet the minimum credit requirements for graded (21 credits) and 700-level (4 credits) coursework as well as the 30 credit minimum for the program. The remaining 5 credits needed to reach the 30 credit minimum can be any combination of graded and/or 700-level coursework as determined by the student and their committee.
Thesis Option with new MS AG Required Core:

Components of the thesis option (a minimum of 30 credits* is required):

- 21 hours minimum of graded coursework:
- **MS AG Required Core:** (6 credits)
  - Stats 512 Statistical Methods in Research II (3 credits)
  - AGRI 587 Research in Agriculture (3 credits)
- 15 hours minimum of graded coursework at the 500-level, which can include 3 hours maximum of seminar courses; and up to 6 hours maximum in non-graduate graded coursework (300 – 400 level only)
- 4 hours minimum of AGRI 700 credit that includes:
  - Preparation of a formal thesis/research paper (AGRI 700 credits)
    - Note that every semester all full-time MS in Ag students are required to enroll in a minimum of one credit hour of AGRI 700
    - Part-time students are not required to enroll in AGRI 700 every semester but still must meet the 4-credit minimum for a thesis master’s degree
  - Two-part final exam (requires the student to be registered for 2 credits of AGRI 700 in the term when the exam is held):
  - Public seminar where the student presents the results of the research project
  - Oral exam that focuses on defense of the research project, attended by all committee members
- *Thesis-option students must meet the minimum credit requirements for graded (21 credits) and 700-level (4 credits) coursework as well as the 30 credit minimum for the program. The remaining 5 credits needed to reach the 30 credit minimum can be any combination of graded and/or 700-level coursework as determined by the student and their committee.*
Non-Thesis Option:

Components of the non-thesis option (a minimum of 30 credits* is required):

- 26 hours minimum of graded course work:
  - 17 hours minimum of graded course work at the 500-level, which can include 3 hours maximum of seminar courses; and up to 9 hours maximum of non-graduate graded course work credit (300-400 level only)
  - 4 hours minimum of AGRI 702 that includes:
    - Independent project and paper (AGRI 702 credits)
      - Note that every semester all full-time MS in Ag students are required to enroll in a minimum of one credit hour of AGRI 702 credit
      - Part-time students are not required to enroll in AGRI 702 every semester but still must meet the 4-credit minimum for a non-thesis master’s degree
    - Comprehensive written exam. This is a four-hour written examination during which the student answers questions related to their discipline without the aid of notes, books or other reference materials. Content questions are developed by the student’s graduate committee and will vary by program and coursework focus. Students must pass the comprehensive exam to be qualified to take the final exam.
    - Two-part final exam (requires the student to be registered for 2 credits of AGRI 702 in the term in which the exam is held):
      - An oral presentation to the student’s graduate committee covering the projects and materials developed during both practicum (AGRI 501, if taken) and research credits (AGRI 702),
      - An oral exam following the oral presentation that allows committee members to further explore issues related to the presentation, independent project, comprehensive written exam, and/or course content.
Non-Thesis Option with new MS AG Required Core:

Components of the non-thesis option (a minimum of 30 credits* is required):

- 26 hours minimum of graded course work:
- MS AG Required Core: (6 credits)
  - Stats 412 Statistical Methods in Research I (3 credits)
  - AGRI 587 Research in Agriculture (3 credits)
- 17 hours minimum of graded course work at the 500-level, which can include 3 hours maximum of seminar courses; and up to 9 hours maximum of non-graduate graded course work credit (300 – 400 level only)
- 4 hours minimum of AGRI 702 that includes:
- Independent project and paper (AGRI 702 credits)
  - Note that every semester all full-time MS in Ag students are required to enroll in a minimum of one credit hour of AGRI 702 credit
  - Part-time students are not required to enroll in AGRI 702 every semester but still must meet the 4-credit minimum for a non-thesis master’s degree
- Comprehensive written exam. This is a four-hour written examination during which the student answers questions related to their discipline without the aid of notes, books or other reference materials. Content questions are developed by the student’s graduate committee and will vary by program and coursework focus. Students must pass the comprehensive exam to be qualified to take the final exam.
- Two-part final exam (requires the student to be registered for 2 credits of AGRI 702 in the term in which the exam is held):
  - An oral presentation to the student’s graduate committee covering the projects and materials developed during both practicum (AGRI 501, if taken) and research credits (AGRI 702),
  - An oral exam following the oral presentation that allows committee members to further explore issues related to the presentation, independent project, comprehensive written exam, and/or course content.