Proposal to Create a Dual Degree  
M.B.A. and M.S. in Agricultural, Environmental, &  
Development Economics at The Ohio State University

Introduction

The Fisher College of Business and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics propose to create a dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics. Students completing this program would earn two degrees: an M.B.A. from the Fisher College of Business and an M.S. degree from the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics.

The proposed dual degree promotes the interests of both programs and serves the overall mission of the University.

For the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, the proposed dual degree will

- add to its ability to prepare students for the business aspects of careers in institutions for which agricultural, environmental, and development issues are special concerns;
- help to maintain the MS program as one of the best in the country and attract a new student population to its degree program; and
- contribute to University, College, and Department objectives of fostering interdisciplinary curricular options and research.

For the Fisher College of Business, the proposed dual degree will

- add to its ability to prepare students for careers in business organizations for which agricultural, environmental, and development issues are special concerns;
- help to maintain the MBA program as one of the best in the country and attract a new student population to its degree program; and
- contribute to University and College objectives of fostering interdisciplinary curricular options and research.

For The Ohio State University, the degree will

- contribute to the University's desire to foster interdisciplinary curricular options;
- strengthen two academic units by expanding the capacity for each, without requiring additional faculty resources or new courses; and
- enhance curricular offerings for graduate students throughout the University.
Dual Degree Structure and Requirements

Students must apply and be admitted to both the M.B.A. and the M.S. programs in order to participate in the dual degree program. More specifically, although admission to the dual degree does not require simultaneous applications to both programs, students must meet the minimum admission requirements of each program and be accepted by each program's Admission Committee to pursue the dual degree. Students applying to the MBA program are required to take the GMAT examination and submit their score as part of their application. Students applying to the MS program are required to take either the GMAT or the GRE examination and submit their score as part of their application.

The Fisher College's Master of Business Administration looks for well-rounded students with diverse and stimulating business and leadership experiences. The Fisher College carefully reviews academic credentials, essays, resumes, references and interview notes to select those individuals who are best fitted to our program. In evaluation of applicants, the Fisher College considers four main criteria: i) accomplishments to date, ii) leadership potential, iii) smarts, savvy and teamwork, and iv) personal qualities and characteristics.

The AED Economics M.S. program seeks applicants with a strong academic preparation and commitment to service. AED Economics carefully reviews academic credentials, resumes, personal statements, and letters of recommendation. While not required for admittance, completion of undergraduate courses in mathematics, statistics, and microeconomics are viewed as partial evidence of academic preparation.

Upon matriculation in the dual degree program, students have 3 years to complete the program. A student may petition to extend the time to complete the program should circumstances arise that make completion of the degree in 3 years infeasible.

The dual degree combines elements of each program’s curriculum. The stand-alone MBA degree is a coursework only program, requiring a total of 98 credit hours, of which 40 credit hours are required core courses and the rest are electives. The stand-alone M.S. degree requires a total of 45 credit hours. It can be completed on a coursework only basis, in which case, a Masters examination is required. Alternatively, students can choose to write a thesis. Under both options, 20 credit hours are required core courses and the rest of the course work is elective (under the thesis option 8 credit hours are given for thesis work).

The dual MBA/MS degree requires the student to complete a minimum of 121 credit hours and satisfy all Graduate School requirements for dual masters programs. This dual degree requires 44 credit hours of core course work, drawing on core courses from each of the programs, with consideration given to potential curriculum overlap across the two programs. As indicated in the chart below, 32 credit hours of core must be taken at the Fisher College of Business, and 8 credit hours of core must be taken in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics. For the remaining 4 credit hours of core, students may choose to take a core data analysis course either at Fisher or in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Developmental Economics. In addition to the 44 credit hours of coursework, 77 hours of elective
Coursework must be completed. Of the electives, 15 credit hours of non-899 and non-999 AED Econ electives must be taken. The remainder of the elective courses can be taken from the Fisher College of Business, the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, or other Ohio State University academic units, subject to approval of the student's advisor.

Student advising will take place as follows. Upon matriculation, a student will select one unit or the other to serve as his or her primary advising unit. He or she can choose to switch his or her primary advising unit during the program based on career interest, and is free to set up advising appointments in his or her non-primary unit as necessary. The primary advising unit will work with students on curriculum planning and approve electives taken.

**Core Courses**

Dual MBA/MS students are required to take 44 hours of core classes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MBA 800</td>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 801</td>
<td>Cost Accounting</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 810</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 820</td>
<td>International Business</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 825</td>
<td>Enhancing Professional Interchange</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 840</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 850</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 860</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 980</td>
<td>Strategy Formulation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core Courses Taken From AED Econ (8 Credit Hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 711</td>
<td>Production and Consumption Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 713</td>
<td>Public Policy &amp; Market Regulation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core Courses Taken From Either Program (4 Credit Hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 701</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 870</td>
<td>Data Analysis for Managers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Courses that are a part of the standard MBA and MS core that are not required for the dual degree, such as MBA 812 (Managerial Economics) and AEDE 712 (Financial Economics), may be taken as elective courses with permission of the student's advisor.
Sample Schedule

While experience will vary by student, the average student could complete the dual degree program in approximately two and a half years, spanning 9 quarters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE SCHEDULE</th>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>MBA 800 (4)</td>
<td>MBA 801(2)</td>
<td>MBA 820 (4)</td>
<td>Practical Experience (non-credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AEDE 711(4)</td>
<td>MBA 810 (4)</td>
<td>MBA 980 (4)</td>
<td>and/or Summer courses (MBA 860 (4) if not already taken)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MBA 870/AEDE 701 (4)</td>
<td>MBA 840 (4)</td>
<td>MBA 825 (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MBA 860 (4) or</td>
<td>MBA 850 (4)</td>
<td>AEDE 713 (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AEDE Elective (4)</td>
<td>AEDE Elective (4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>AEDE Elective (4)</td>
<td>AEDE Elective (4)</td>
<td>AEDE Elective (4)</td>
<td>Summer courses or Masters Thesis Research (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free Electives (12)</td>
<td>Free Electives (12)</td>
<td>Free Electives (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Free Electives (11+)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Requirements for Each Degree Program

The table below illustrates how students in the dual degree program will meet the requirements for each degree (98 credit hours, with 40 credit hours of core for MBA and 45 credit hours, with 20 hours of core for the MS AEDE). Double counted and potentially double counted classes are highlighted below.
**MBA Program Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>How Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MBA 800</td>
<td>Financial Accounting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 801</td>
<td>Cost Accounting</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 810</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 812</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>AEDE 713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 820</td>
<td>International Business</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 825</td>
<td>Enhancing Professional Interchange</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 840</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 850</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 860</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 870</td>
<td>Data Analysis for Managers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED OR AEDE 701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBA 980</td>
<td>Strategy Formulation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MBA Elective Curriculum (58 credit hours)**

- MBA and AEDE Electives 58

AEDE Electives (minimum of 15 credit hours) counted as free electives toward the MBA degree

**MS AEDE Program Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>How Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 701</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED or MBA 870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 702</td>
<td>Computational Economics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>LARGELY COVERED ACROSS MBA CORE CLASSES AND ELECTIVES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 711</td>
<td>Production and Consumption</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 712</td>
<td>Finance and Risk Management</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>MBA 810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEDE 713</td>
<td>Public Policy and Market Regulation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>REQUIRED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective Curriculum (25 credit hours)**

- MBA and AEDE Electives 25

All AEDE Electives plus maximum of 10 credit hours of MBA electives

Based on the detailed information above, the reconciliation of credit hours is as follows.

**CORE:** The 40 credit hours for the MBA core are met by double counting a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 core credit hours (40 less 4 or 8 for a total of 36 or 32 credit hours of MBA core). The MS AEDE 20 credit hours of core are met by double counting a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 credit hours of core (20 less 8 or 12 for a total of 12 or 8 credit hours of AEDE core). This brings the
total core requirements from a separate total of 60 (40 + 20) to a combined total of 44, double counting a total of 16 credit hours of core.

**ELECTIVES:** The 58 credit hours of MBA electives are met by double counting a minimum of 15 credit hours of AEDE elective courses, treating them as free electives. More elective courses may be double counted depending on the students’ elective curriculum. MBA is willing to accept these elective courses as students pursuing this dual degree option are likely to be focused on economic development and agri-business, and we do not offer extensive curriculum in these areas. Thus, our approach here is to accept these courses as highly relevant to business as it pertains to this area of specialization. The 25 credit hours of AEDE electives are met by double counting a maximum of 10 credit hours of MBA electives. This brings the total elective requirements from a separate total of 83 credit hours to a combined total of 77 credit hours of electives, reducing the number of elective credit hours required by a total of 6 credit hours.

In summary, the programs as they stand separately require a total of 143 credit hours, 60 in core and 83 credit hours in electives. We have created a combined degree that requires 22 fewer credit hours, or 121 total credit hours, double counting 16 credit hours in core and 6 credit hours in electives.
On Nov 16, 2009, at 10:03 AM, Elliot Slotnick wrote:

Dear Karen,

The Graduate Council’s Curriculum Committee has vetted your MBA/MS AEDE Dual Degree proposal and is supportive of it “in principle.” There are a few points needing slight clarification and/or reconciliation of the numbers, but relatively minimal revisions are necessary to move this forward through the university’s approval processes. If you can send me a revision addressing the points noted below in the coming weeks, we will have the proposal voted on at the next meeting of the Graduate Council which will be on December 8th. Following Graduate Council approval, I will forward the proposal to Randy Smith for vetting by CAA and, after that, by the University Senate which should be the last stage in the approval process. I believe that full approval of the proposal will be readily obtained some time during Winter Quarter. Specifically, in your formal submission of a revised proposal, please attend to the following:

1. Remove the notation “Draft-November 5, 2009” from the upper right hand corner of all proposal pages—and please number the proposal’s pages.

DONE.

2. In the 5th para under “Degree Structure and Requirements” please spell out the exit requirements for each degree program. Specifically, while indicating that the MBA degree is a coursework only program, that the MS. degree will require either the Master’s Thesis (as presently indicated in the proposal) or, alternatively, the Master’s Examination as required for Plan B Master’s programs.

NOW IN DOCUMENT.

3. Some reconciliation or, more to the point, clarification of “the numbers” needs to be accomplished. On page two para 6 it is indicated that 55 credit hours must be taken with at least 32 at Fisher and 23 in AEDE. These Fisher 32 are all from the stand alone MBA core while 8 of the 23 AEDE credits come from their stand alone core. An additional 66 elective hours are required for a total of 121 hours in this documentation. Committee members were a bit confused when, on the following page’s curriculum chart, an additional 4 hours of Core coursework is indicated (44) which, if taken in Fisher, leaves an additional 15 hours required in AEDE and the 66 elective hours for a total of 125 hours required for the dual degrees. I’m certain that the “fix” here is likely simple—but please reconcile what appears to be two different presentations of the credit hour requirements for the program.

The dual degree combines elements of each program’s curriculum. The stand-alone MBA degree is a coursework only program, requiring a total of 98 credit hours, of which 40 credit hours are required core courses and the rest are electives. The stand-alone M.S. degree requires a total of 45 credit hours. It can be completed on a coursework only basis, in which case, a Masters examination is required. Alternatively,
students can choose to write a thesis. Under both options, 20 credit hours are required core courses and the rest of the course work is elective (under the thesis option 8 credit hours are given for thesis work).

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4. Note, as well, on the Core Course listing, AED 711 and 713 are shown as 4 credit courses but in the sample program on the next page they are shown as 5 credit hours. Please reconcile.

**DONE IN TEXT. THEY ARE 4 CREDIT HOURS.**

5. Finally, and for me this is the concern that will need some additional information provided, dual program degree students must meet the credit hour requirements of both programs, in this instance 98 hours for the MBA and 45 hours for the MS. In addition, there are 40 required core hours in the MBA and 20 in the MS program. Students in each of their degree programs must continue to meet all of these requirements although there is an allowance of double-counting of up to 50% of the coursework in each program. At present, the proposal doesn’t indicate how these basic credit hour requirements for each degree and the core requirements for each degree are being met. The revised proposal should specify the double counting that is being done or, alternatively, additional course work needs to be required in each degree program to meet the program’s degree requirements. I checked these concerns out with Tim Watson, our Director of Graduation Services who works most closely with such dual degree programs and he concurred, noting, “Your comments about the dual degree program are correct. The curriculum should show both unique credits to be taken for each respective degree program as well as the credits that will be counted as dual or joint credits applied to both degrees. As you stated, at least half of the hours for an individual degree have to be unique to that degree. When we audit a record for graduation, we are checking to make sure that a student meets the hour requirement for each degree by adding up the unique and dual credits earned. The full-time MBA program does require 98 hours and the MS in AEDE is 45. I’m assuming that only full time MBA students will be participating in the dual degree program...”

**SEE NEW TABLE IN DOCUMENT, AND NEW TEXT AS BELOW:**

Based on the detailed information above, the reconciliation of credit hours is as follows.
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The Curriculum Committee will return to the processing of your proposal as soon as your revision is received. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best,

elliot

From: Karen Hopper Wruck [mailto:wruck_1@fisher.osu.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 9:40 AM
To: Elliot Slotnick
Cc: Stephen Mangum; David Smith; Melissa Torres; Stephen Hills; miranda.4@osu.edu Miranda; Claudio Gonzalez
Subject: Proposal for Dual Degree-MBA/MS AEDE

Elliot:

Attached find a proposal from the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics and Fisher for a dual MBA/MS degree. The proposal has been approved by the appropriate faculty committees at both units, so we'd like to see if we can move forward with approval from the Graduate School. Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions, and what next steps might be.

Thanks so much,

Karen

******************************************************************************
Karen Hopper Wruck, PhD
Dean's Distinguished Professor
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs
Professor of Finance, Fisher 200
Fisher College of Business
Graduate Council
January 11, 2010
226 University Hall
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:
Ana Azevedo, Ginny Bumgardner, Theresa Early, Jim Phelan, John Sheridan, Ingrid Werner,
Danelle Wilbraham (representing Brian Gay)
Graduate School Staff Present: Patrick Osmer, Ann Salimbene, Elliot Slotnick, Kathleen
Wallace, Susan Reeser (recorder)

A. Approval of Minutes
- The minutes from the November 16, 2009, Graduate Council meeting were approved as
  submitted.

B. Announcements – Dean Pat Osmer
1. Dean Osmer reported on the Graduate School’s efforts to improve its communication
   abilities to effectively increase the dissemination of information and the visibility of
   graduate student accomplishments. He indicated that Kathleen Wallace will be the
   Graduate School’s main contact for communication needs.

2. Kathleen reported on the Digital Media CreatorCamp workshop she attended sponsored
   by the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs, to use new forms of media tools, e.g., Twitter
   and Facebook, to improve campus-wide communications and promote Graduate School
   activities. Kathleen indicated that the Graduate School will be implementing incremental
   changes to its website over the next several months to give it a more unified appearance
   and make it easier to find information and link to other campus services/units.

3. Dean Osmer reported that the Enrollment Steering Committee, chaired by Vice President
   Dolan Evanovich, is attempting to increase the university’s enrollment by 2,500 students
   over the next five years. Dean Osmer will chair a graduate student enrollment
   subcommittee to determine ways to increase enrollment at the graduate level and the
   feasibility of doing so. He indicated that enrollment change isn’t expected at the doctoral
   level but that increases are anticipated at the master’s level through efforts to boost the
   development of new master’s degree and certificate programs to support corporate,
   government, and health care career opportunities.

C. Business
1. Semester Conversion

   Elliot reported that Vice Provost Randy Smith along with 2 faculty fellows, Steve Fink,
   (English) and Anne Christy (Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering), are
   coordinating the university’s conversion reorganization effort. Seven committees were
   organized during autumn quarter to address the various functions and operations that will
   be affected by the conversion. Elliot is serving on 4 committees that will be working
   with graduate-related issues: Executive Coordinating Committee, Curriculum
   Subcommittee, University-Level Advisory Committee for the General Education
   Curriculum (ULAC) to monitor GEC, and the Graduate School Committee reviewing the
Graduate School Handbook rules and policies. He indicated that Graduate Council will be involved in reviewing any changes proposed by the Graduate School Committee. Elliot stated that more substantive meetings are being convened during winter quarter and that the targeted switch to semesters will be in summer 2012.

2. University Fellowship allocations

Elliot explained that a Graduate School e-mail and spreadsheets were sent to college deans notifying them of the number of University Fellowship award years allocated to the colleges for the 2010 fellowship process. This number was reduced due to the increased number of fellowship acceptance in 2009. This decision was made to keep fellowship costs within the Graduate School’s budget resources.

Also discussed was the Graduate School’s decision to limit the number of petitions for College-Allocated Fellowship awards to students who fail to meet the GPA and/or GRE criteria for the award. Only 1 exception for every 6 nominations made will be allowed.

D. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

– Theresa Early, Liaison

1. Proposal to create a dual MBA and MS degree in Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics.
   ➢ Theresa explained the details of the proposal. The proposal was approved by Graduate Council and will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) for further processing.

E. Other

• Ginny Bumgardner expressed interest in receiving assistance in getting information to graduate students in the biomedical disciplines about the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Med into Grad Program. Dr. Bumgardner will work with Kathleen Wallace to communicate the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.