



**NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM**

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Sponsoring Institution(s): Missouri State University

Program Title: Agriculture

Degree/Certificate: MS

Options: N/A

Delivery Site(s): Springfield MO

CIP Classification: 01.0000

\*CIP code can be cross-referenced with programs offered in your region on MDHE's program inventory [highered.mo.gov/ProgramInventory/search.jsp](http://highered.mo.gov/ProgramInventory/search.jsp)

Implementation Date: Fall 2015

Cooperative Partners: N/A

\*If this is a collaborative program, form CL must be included with this proposal

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Click here to enter text.

Name/Title of Institutional Officer

Signature

Date

*Frank Enkeltig*

*6/16/15*

Click here to enter text.

Person to Contact for More Information

Click here to enter text.

Telephone



**STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

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Year	1	2	3	4	5
Full Time	18	21	24	27	30
Part Time	2	4	6	8	10
Total	20	25	30	35	40

Please provide a rationale regarding how student enrollment projections were calculated:

The only graduate option available to past and current agricultural students at MSU has been to pursue the Master in Natural and Applied Science (MNAS) degree. Once the proposed new program is approved and implemented, we anticipate that most, if not all, of the currently enrolled and prospective MNAS students who are interested in agriculture will switch to the new program. The enrollment projection for the first year, therefore, is based on the average enrollment in the MNAS program with a specialty in agriculture. The projected enrollments for years 2 through 5 represent conservative growth. The actual growth is expected to be much greater due to the increasing demand for graduates with degrees in agriculture as described below.

Provide a rationale for proposing this program, including evidence of market demand and societal need supported by research:

Employment opportunities abound for students in this program. According to a recent study by Purdue University, between 2015 and 2020 the U.S. food and agricultural industry expects to see nearly 60,000 annual jobs openings for undergraduate and graduate students with degrees in food, agriculture and renewable natural resource (USDA, 2015). Some individuals with the agricultural degree move into staff positions such as financial analysts or market researchers.

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Others begin in positions that ultimately lead to upper-level management positions. Many job openings are likely to result from the need to replace experienced workers who transfer to other occupations, retire, or leave the labor force for other reasons. The following is the sample of the agribusiness companies in the private and public sector located in Missouri who are likely to hire the MS in Agriculture graduates.

1. FCS Financial, Jefferson City
2. Bunge North America, St. Louis
3. Monsanto Company, St. Louis
4. American Soybean Association, St. Louis
5. Missouri Soybean Association, St. Louis
6. Purina Mills, Inc., Gray Summit, MO
7. Osborn and Barr Communications, St. Louis and Kansas City
8. MFA, Inc., Jefferson City
9. Missouri Department of Agriculture, Columbia
10. Lange-Stegmann Company, St. Louis

**\*Societal Need:**

The United States agricultural industry continues to lead global agriculture production. This leadership is even more critical at a time when global demand for food is growing faster than supply. During the last decade, prices of agricultural commodities have increased exponentially, spurring food riots in nearly a dozen countries and causing millions of people to fall into poverty (Bourne, 2009). While food prices have begun to relax in recent years in some countries, the trend is inconsistent and in many countries food prices remain relatively high (Conceicao and Mendoza, 2009). A vibrant American agriculture industry that is able to further increase productivity and access to food will be necessary to reduce the impacts of food insecurity.

In order to maintain productivity demands, agricultural programs must produce an increasing number of highly competent graduates with advanced skills and knowledge in agriculture, life sciences, and management.

**\*Methodology:**

Surveys (explained above) and literature reviews were used to determine student demand, market demand, and societal need. The School also consulted with other universities, particularly those in Non-Land-Grant Agriculture and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU) offering similar graduate programs.

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A. Total credits required for graduation: Students in the Master of Science in Agriculture degree program will complete 32 credit hours. In addition to a 9 hour core, each student will complete a 12 hour research requirement, which will include the completion of either a thesis, a research report involving critical evaluation and interpretation of data related to an industry trend, or an internship. The remaining 11 elective hours will be taken within the subspecialties of the School as well as in other related departments.

B. Residency requirements, if any: At least 70% of the coursework (23) must be taken from Missouri State University.

C. General education: Total credits: 9

Courses (specific courses OR distribution area and credits):

Course Number	Credits	Course Title
AGR790	3	Research Methodology
AGR797	1	Research Seminar
AGP 730	2	Design/Analysis of Field Experiments
QBA 775	3	Quantitative Methods in Business Decision Making or BIO 650 Stat Methods for Biologist

D. Major requirements: Total credits: 12

Course Number	Credits	Course Title
Thesis Option		
AGR798	6	Graduate Research
AGR799	6	Graduate Thesis
<i>OR</i> Non-Thesis Option		
AGR798	6	Graduate Research
	6	Additional Coursework
<i>Or</i> Graduate Internship		
AGR796	6	Graduate Internship
	6	Additional Coursework

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E. Free elective credits: Explained in table, as part of specialty areas

<b>Options for Specialty Areas and Elective Courses--11 Hours</b>	
<u>Specialty Area: Natural Resources</u>	Credit Hours
AGP 675: Plant Breeding and Genetics	2
AGP 730: Techniques in Plant Breeding/Advanced Plant Breeding	1
AGE 628: Molecular Breeding Techniques	3
AGN 725: Advanced Soils Interpretations	3
AGN 655: Soil Genesis, Morphology and Classification	3
AGP 655: Grain Crops for Food, Feed, and Fiber	3
AGP 665: Forages Crops for Animals and the Environment	3
AGP 685: Weed Ecology and Management	3
AGN 605: Advanced Soil Fertility	3
AGP 653: Advanced Turf Science	3
<u>Specialty Areas: Agricultural Economics/Business</u>	
AGB 624: Agricultural Prices	3
AGB 614: International Trade	3
AGB 634: Production Economics	3
AGB 684: Farm Business Management	3
<u>Specialty Areas: Animal Science</u>	
AGS 611: Nutrition and Metabolism	3
AGS 661: Equine Nutrition and Physiology	3
AGS 712: Special Topics in Animal Science	1-6
AGS 716: Mammalian Reproduction and Physiology	3
<u>Additional recommended elective courses</u>	
ECO 600: Fundamentals of Economics	3
ECO 609: Applied Econometrics	3
ECO 615: Public Sector Economics	3
ECO 640: Environmental Economics	3
ECO 665: International Economics	
QBA 775: Quantitative Methods In Business Decision Making	3
PLS756: Financial Management of State and Local Government	3
COM 712: Quantitative Method in Communication	3
ECO 665: International Economics	3
COM714: Qualitative Analysis In Communication	3

(Sum of C, D, and E should equal A.)

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F. Requirements for thesis, internship or other capstone experience:

Students can opt to do a thesis, non-thesis research report, or internship. A thesis is an extensive research endeavor requiring literature review, study design, data collection, statistical analysis, and interpretation of results. A non-thesis research report will involve critical evaluation and interpretation of data related to industry trend. An internship will require students to complete a field-based project under the supervision of the faculty advisor and supervising personnel at the organization where the internship is completed.

G. Any unique features such as interdepartmental cooperation:

Students in a sub-specialty area such as Agricultural Business will be taking courses from the Economics department including Econometric and Mathematical Economics. Other departments, including Education, Business, Biology, and Communication are potentially important collaborators for the success of the program.



## PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

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Institution Name Missouri State University  
Program Name Agriculture  
Date June 16, 2016

(Although all of the following guidelines may not be applicable to the proposed program, please carefully consider the elements in each area and respond as completely as possible in the format below. Quantification of performance goals should be included wherever possible.)

### 1. Student Preparation

- Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required.

Any special admissions procedures or student qualifications required for this program which exceed regular university admissions, standards, e.g., ACT score, completion of core curriculum, portfolio, personal interview, etc. Please note if no special preparation will be required. No requirements beyond the MSU Graduate College's standards will be required.

- Characteristics of a specific population to be served, if applicable.  
N/A

### 2. Faculty Characteristics

- Any special requirements (degree status, training, etc.) for assignment of teaching for this degree/certificate.

Instructors for at least half of the coursework (700 level and above) will meet the School's and Graduate College's standards for graduate faculty status.

- Estimated percentage of credit hours that will be assigned to full time faculty. Please use the term "full time faculty" (and not FTE) in your descriptions here.  
75% full time faculty, 25% per course instructors

- Expectations for professional activities, special student contact, teaching/learning innovation.

Faculty are expected to have strong interest in advanced topics in agricultural sciences demonstrated by educational training, research publications, and professional and/or community involvement.

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### 3. Enrollment Projections

- Student FTE majoring in program by the end of five years.  
40
- Percent of full time and part time enrollment by the end of five years.  
75% full time, 25% part time

### 4. Student and Program Outcomes

- Number of graduates per annum at three and five years after implementation.  
30 students at the third year, 40 at the end of fifth year
- Special skills specific to the program.  
Students graduating with MS in Agriculture degree will have a combination of hands-on skill and knowledge in their specialty areas in agricultural sciences. This will provide them with opportunities to advance in their present jobs or to enter in the job markets related to agricultural industry with distinct qualifications.
- Proportion of students who will achieve licensing, certification, or registration.  
N/A
- Performance on national and/or local assessments, e.g., percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on normed tests; percent of students achieving minimal cut-scores on criterion-referenced tests. Include expected results on assessments of general education and on exit assessments in a particular discipline as well as the name of any nationally recognized assessments used.  
An assessment program clearly tied to the objectives of the program is developed. The objectives of the program are to provide 1) advanced knowledge of the specialty in agriculture, 2) knowledge in data analysis and interpretation, 3) knowledge in communication including oral and written communication. At the end of the program students will have to pass a comprehensive exam to receive the degree. Comprehensive exam will be developed by a committee assigned to supervise the student. The exam will assess Objective 1 by including questions in the specialty area, Objective 2 by including application of statistics. Objective 3 will be assessed through written and oral and presentation of the thesis, non-thesis research report, or internship project. The results of the assessments will help the committee to examine strengths and weakness of the program in meeting the objectives.
- Placement rates in related fields, in other fields, unemployed.  
We anticipate 90%+ placement in agricultural industry, agricultural organizations, and Missouri high schools

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- Transfer rates, continuous study.  
N/A

#### 5. Program Accreditation

- Institutional plans for accreditation, if applicable, including accrediting agency and timeline. **If there are no plans to seek specialized accreditation, please provide a rationale.**  
Not applicable. Agricultural programs are not accredited.

#### 6. Alumni and Employer Survey

- Expected satisfaction rates for alumni, *including timing and method of surveys.*  
Alumni surveys will be conducted every five years using an online survey tools (e.g., survey monkey) to solicit feedback from regarding the value of the degree in meeting their short term and long term goals. Survey results will be used to determine any necessary curricular modifications to meet the industry needs.
- Expected satisfaction rates for employers, including timing and method of surveys.  
Alumni surveys will be conducted every five years using an online survey tools (e.g., survey monkey) to solicit feedback from regarding the value of the degree in meeting their short term and long term goals. Survey results will be used to determine any necessary curricular modifications to meet the industry needs.

#### 7. Institutional Characteristics

- Characteristics demonstrating why your institution is particularly well-equipped to support the program.  
The Darr School of Agriculture at Missouri State University is the only non-land grant school in the state of Missouri offering comprehensive undergraduate degree programs in many sub-disciplines within the agricultural industry, including agribusiness, education, natural resources and animal sciences. The School consists of academically and professionally qualified faculty who will be involved in the delivery of the proposed graduate program. The School has added many assets and new facilities, including the Darr Center, Journgan Ranch, and the Fruit Experiment Station in Mountain Grove. These resources can provide unique research and other profession development opportunities to the potential graduate students.

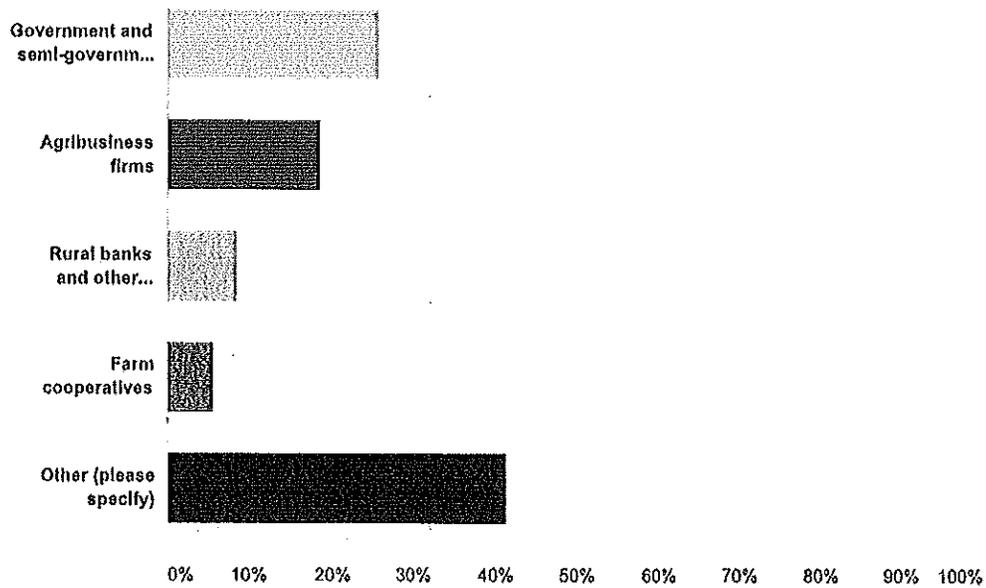
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Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences  
(MAS) degree: Alumni Survey

### Q1 Which of the following best describes the principle industry of your organization?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



**Answer Choices**

**Responses**

Government and semi-government agencies	25.71%	18
Agribusiness firms	18.57%	13
Rural banks and other financial institutions	8.57%	6
Farm cooperatives	5.71%	4
Other (please specify)	41.43%	29

**Total**

70

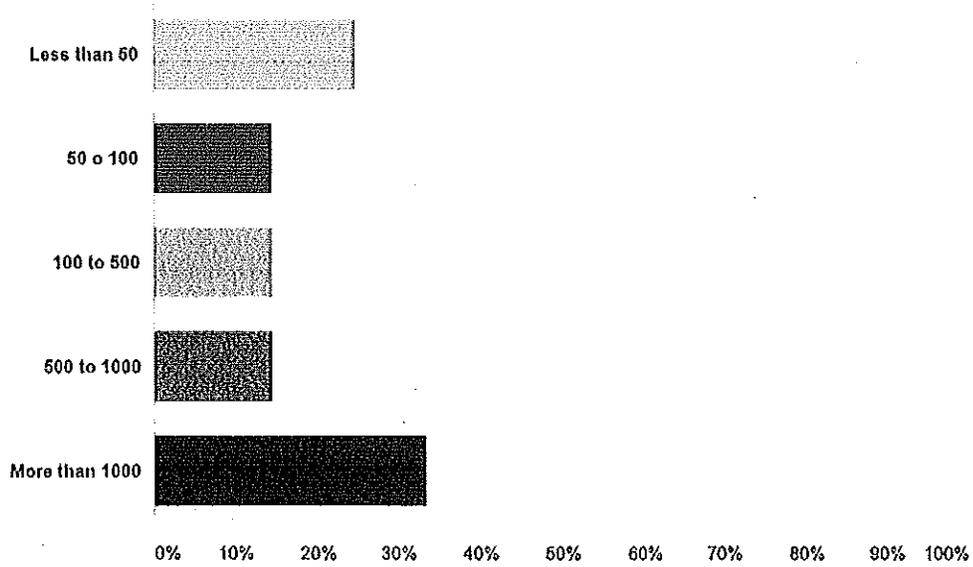
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Education	9/17/2015 8:32 AM
2	I am no longer working in the Agricultural Field but I do however still raise beef cattle and work on the farm in my time off.	9/16/2015 10:48 PM
3	manufacturing and sales	9/16/2015 9:27 PM
4	Logistics	9/16/2015 2:39 PM
5	Agri insurance	9/16/2015 11:34 AM
6	Higher Education - Grounds Services	9/16/2015 9:08 AM
7	Production AG	9/15/2015 10:34 AM
8	Food Manufacturing	9/15/2015 3:31 PM
9	Ag Education	9/16/2015 11:42 AM
10	Sales	9/16/2015 11:41 AM

## Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) Degree: Alumni Survey

11	teacher	9/15/2015 11:11 AM
12	Healthcare	9/15/2015 10:14 AM
13	Education Conservation	9/14/2015 11:20 AM
14	manufacturing	9/14/2015 11:08 AM
15	Public School; Adult Ag Education	9/14/2015 9:48 AM
16	Education	9/11/2015 12:56 PM
17	Environmental	9/10/2015 9:04 PM
18	Logistics	9/10/2015 8:50 PM
19	Stay at home mom/farm	9/10/2015 6:32 PM
20	Higher Education	9/10/2015 3:07 PM
21	Education	9/10/2015 1:08 PM
22	Production agriculture	9/10/2015 10:56 AM
23	Insurance	9/10/2015 9:24 AM
24	Livestock/Pet Food Industry	9/9/2015 7:00 PM
25	And	9/9/2015 6:11 PM
26	Law	9/9/2015 2:45 PM
27	Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler	9/9/2015 2:00 PM
28	Education	9/9/2015 1:35 PM
29	Community Missions	9/9/2015 1:26 PM

### Q2 What is the estimated number of employees in your organization?

Answered: 69 Skipped: 2



**Answer Choices**

Less than 50

50 to 100

100 to 500

500 to 1000

More than 1000

**Total Respondents: 69**

**Responses**

24.64% 17

14.49% 10

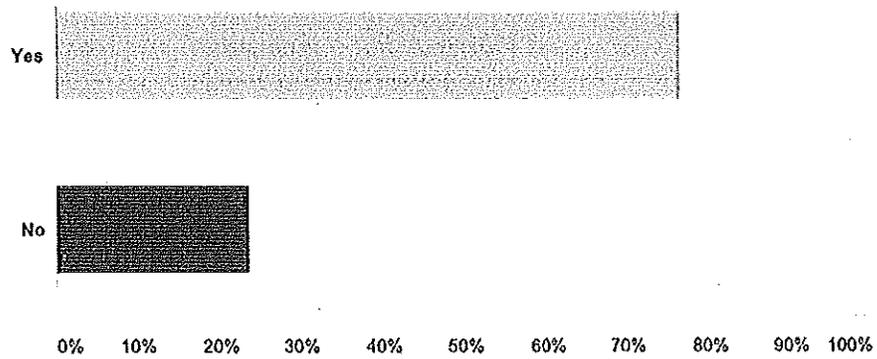
14.49% 10

14.49% 10

33.33% 23

**Q3 As a part of training and development of your employees, do you encourage them to attend advanced degrees in the areas related to your business?**

Answered: 68 Skipped: 3



**Answer Choices**

Yes

No

**Total**

**Responses**

76.47%

52

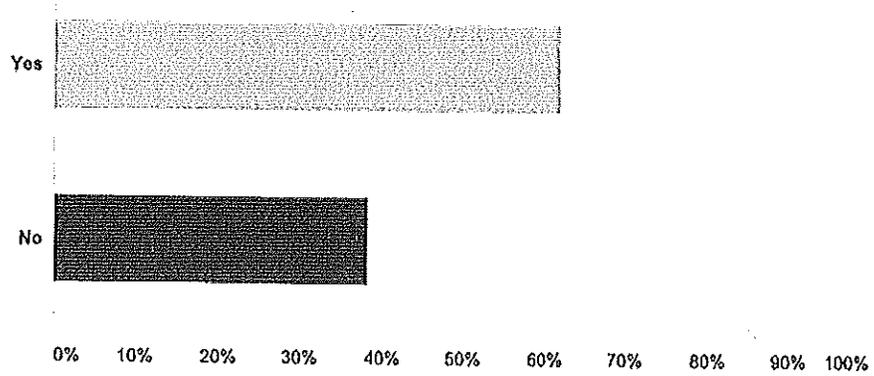
23.53%

16

68

**Q4 Do you provide any company assistance such as tuition reimbursements, work schedule adjustment to fit with the employees' class schedule, leave with pay, etc.?**

Answered: 68 Skipped: 3



**Answer Choices**

Yes

No

**Total**

**Responses**

61.76%

38.24%

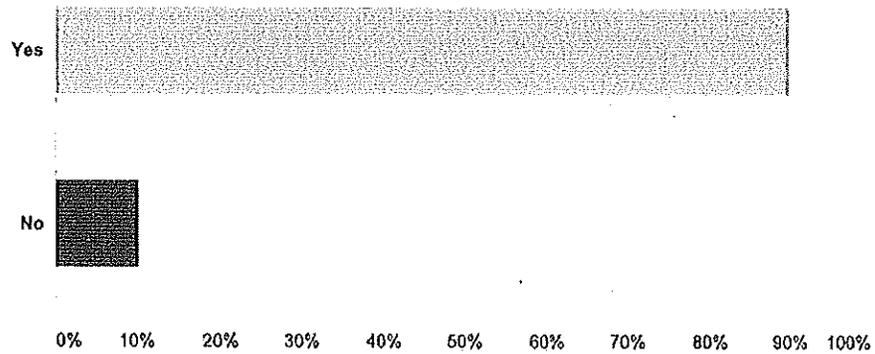
42

26

68

**Q5 According to a recent study by Purdue University, between 2015 and 2020, the U.S. food and agricultural industry expects to see nearly 60,000 annual job openings for undergraduates and graduate students with degrees in food, agriculture, and renewable natural resources. Do you see a general need for such manpower?**

Answered: 69 Skipped: 2



**Answer Choices**

Yes

No

**Total**

**Responses**

89.86%

10.14%

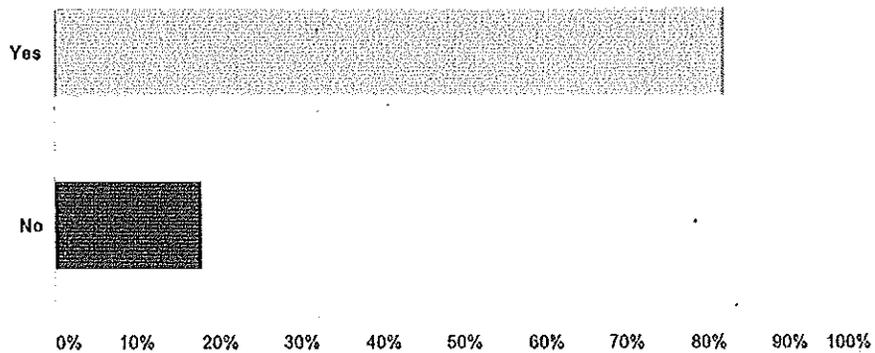
62

7

69

**Q6 The proposed Master's in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) program is designed to fulfill the need of the organizations in food and agricultural industry. The MAS graduates will possess advanced technical, analytical and business skills to work for agribusiness firms in various capacities. If the Darr School of Agriculture at Missouri State University offers the above-described program, are you likely to encourage your employees to join the program?**

Answered: 67 Skipped: 4



**Answer Choices**

Yes

No

**Total**

**Responses**

82.09%

17.91%

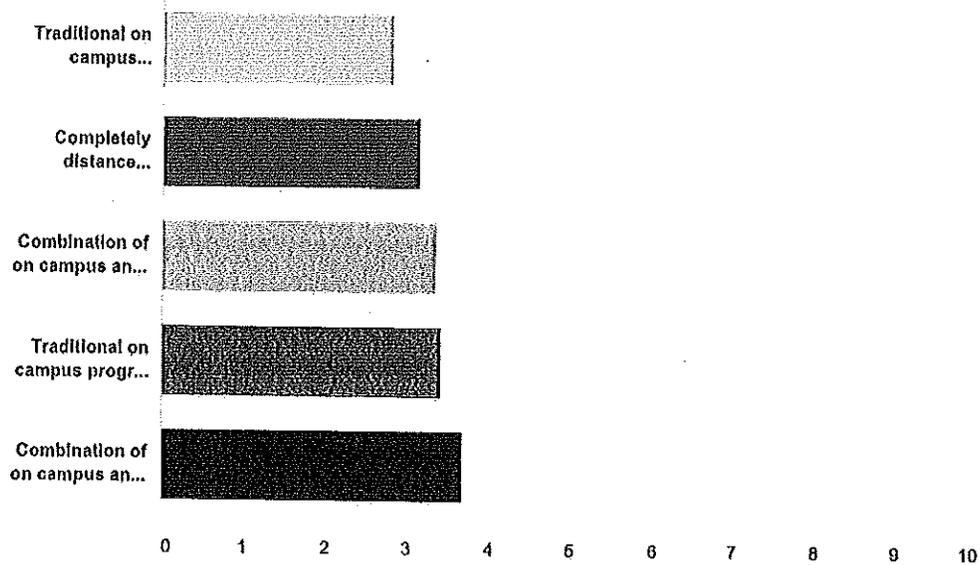
55

12

67

**Q7 Using a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being least preferred and 5 being most preferred, please rank the following length and design of the proposed MAS program.**

Answered: 67 Skipped: 4

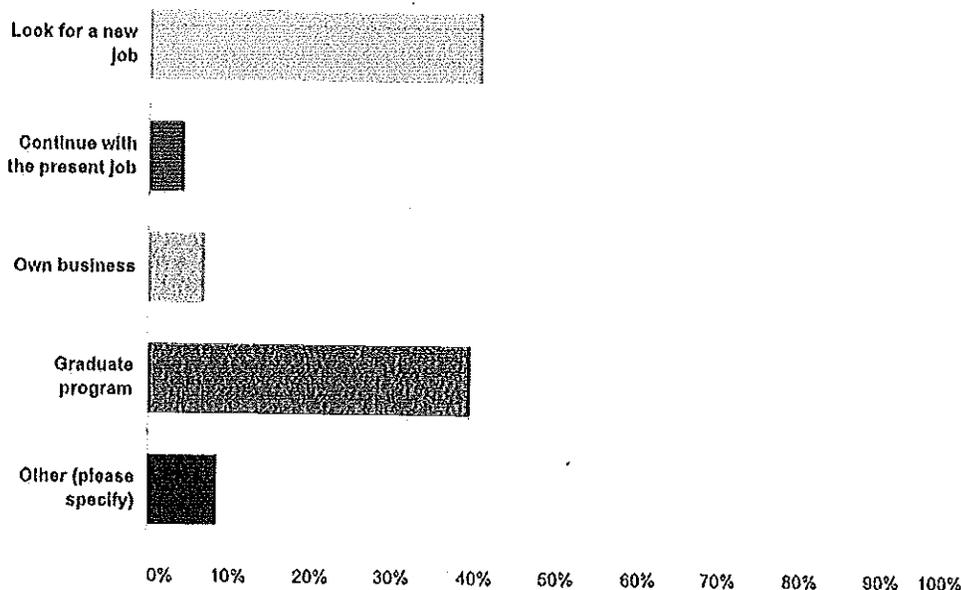


	Least preferred	(no label)	(no label)	(no label)	Most Preferred	Total	Weighted Average
Traditional on campus program-2 years uninterrupted	25.76%	22.73%	13.64%	22.73%	15.15%	66	2.79
Completely distance learning - 2 years uninterrupted	17.19%	20.31%	21.88%	14.06%	26.56%	64	3.13
Combination of on campus and distance learning - 2 to 5 years	9.23%	10.77%	32.31%	30.77%	16.92%	65	3.35
Traditional on campus program with Job training and Internship - 1 year uninterrupted	7.58%	18.18%	19.70%	34.85%	19.70%	66	3.41
Combination of on campus and distance learning with Job training and Internship - 1 to 5 years	7.58%	12.12%	16.67%	33.33%	30.30%	66	3.67

Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) degree:  
Survey of Current Students at Darr School of Agriculture

### Q1 What are your future career plans after the graduation?

Answered: 233 Skipped: 0



**Answer Choices**

- Look for a new job
- Continue with the present job
- Own business
- Graduate program
- Other (please specify)

**Responses**

Answer Choice	Percentage	Count
Look for a new job	40.77%	95
Continue with the present job	4.29%	10
Own business	6.87%	16
Graduate program	39.46%	92
Other (please specify)	8.58%	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>233</b>

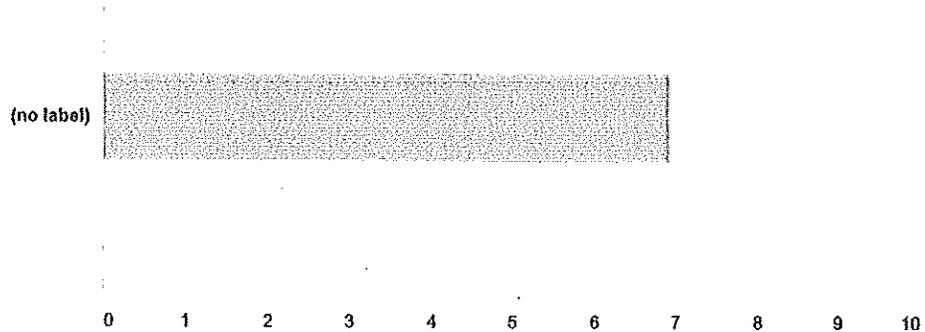
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Veterinary school	9/17/2015 10:52 AM
2	I would like to both find a job and continue working towards my Master's	9/15/2015 7:48 PM
3	Vet School	9/15/2015 3:28 PM
4	Unsure	9/15/2015 7:08 AM
5	Currently in Graduate Program for Plant Science with the Darr School of Agriculture	9/14/2015 10:22 AM
6	Possibly be in a graduate program but first I am going to try and get into the Missouri Department of Conservation Academy	9/14/2015 10:06 AM
7	Have A Career	9/12/2015 8:38 PM
8	Continue with current job while working towards masters	9/10/2015 9:24 PM
9	undecided	9/10/2015 5:33 PM
10	A new job unless a graduate program is offered.	9/10/2015 1:00 PM

Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) Degree: Survey of Current Students at Darr School of Agriculture

11	Look for a job or continue to graduate school	9/9/2015 9:12 PM
12	I have recently accepted a position with a grain company starting in June of 2016.	9/9/2015 5:56 PM
13	Go back to the family farm	9/9/2015 4:43 PM
14	Continue with my present job and continue in the graduate program	9/9/2015 1:59 PM
15	Vet school	9/8/2015 5:30 PM
16	Vet School	9/8/2015 5:14 PM
17	Vet School	9/8/2015 2:33 PM
18	Look for a new job and consider graduate program.	9/8/2015 2:33 PM
19	Go into a research field	9/8/2015 2:04 PM
20	School of Veterinary Medicine	9/8/2015 1:54 PM

**Q2 Using a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being absolutely certain that you will not go to a graduate school and 10 being absolutely certain that you will go to a graduate school, please indicate how certain you are about your graduate program.**

Answered: 233 Skipped: 0



	Absolutely certain that I will not go to a graduate school	(no label)	Absolutely certain (that I will go to a graduate school)	Total	Weighted Average							
(no label)	6.44%	1.29%	4.72%	3.43%	12.88%	11.59%	13.73%	10.30%	15.88%	19.74%	233	6.90
	15	3	11	8	30	27	32	24	37	46		

**Q3 If you are planning to go to a graduate school, how would a graduate program help you in your career development?**

Answered: 165 Skipped: 68

#	Responses	Date
1	A graduate program would best help if it allowed for career networking and career skills.	9/17/2015 12:04 PM
2	If I had a masters degree, it would increase my rate of pay considerably. If I could obtain that degree easily, that would make it even better.	9/17/2015 11:53 AM
3	I would like to be a veterinarian so I have to go to graduate school.	9/17/2015 11:16 AM
4	Unsure	9/17/2015 10:52 AM
5	MSU does not offer the undergrad program I desire. I would go to MU to pursue a Masters in forestry in order to be a Forester for the NPS.	9/17/2015 10:49 AM
6	A graduate program would help me learn specific skills needed for my future career.	9/17/2015 10:01 AM
7	It would help me pick the exact direction of my career. I really love growing all plants and have not really set into a certain niche yet.	9/16/2015 10:18 PM
8	It will make me more qualified for jobs in my field. As well as provide me with more experience.	9/16/2015 10:13 PM
9	I want to go to be an agriculture education teacher so the more farther I go in education the more I will be able to teach my students	9/16/2015 2:18 PM
10	Learning concepts and skills to help me apply my knowledge in biotech industries	9/16/2015 11:58 AM
11	Placement in a career position with agriculture.	9/16/2015 11:25 AM
12	It would increase my knowledge of various concepts within my major and I could conduct further research or research in general about concepts of animal science. Also, it would increase my annual income.	9/16/2015 11:15 AM
13	It would help me by giving me skills that I wouldn't have with just a Bachelors.	9/16/2015 10:16 AM
14	Being a Commodity Hedging Analyst one of the first educational requirements is having a MBA or MS in Economics or related discipline.	9/16/2015 9:16 AM
15	MS degree opens another tier of job possibilities	9/16/2015 9:14 AM
16	I want to be a veterinarian, a graduate program is essential.	9/16/2015 9:08 AM
17	Higher on pay-scale. Opportunity to teach at a collegiate level.	9/15/2015 10:57 PM
18	A graduate program allows me the opportunity to continue gaining knowledge and new experiences so that I will have a successful career.	9/15/2015 10:02 PM
19	I want more education and possibly a PhD in the future.	9/15/2015 8:36 PM
20	I believe there is still a lot for me to learn in my field, and having the education AND experience hand in hand is incredibly marketable.	9/15/2015 7:48 PM
21	I'm planning to teach ag classes at the college level. You must have your masters to do so.	9/15/2015 3:19 PM
22	A graduate program would help me develop a successful career by allowing me to become more educated and gain a better understanding of how the real world works.	9/15/2015 2:23 PM
23	Giving me real world experience while being able to get a higher education	9/15/2015 2:05 PM
24	Learning more about my career field	9/15/2015 1:26 PM
25	It would give me more education so I can be more marketable to more places.	9/15/2015 1:15 PM
26	Would help me advance farther in my current career.	9/15/2015 11:59 AM
27	Not sure	9/15/2015 7:42 AM
28	I may go to better my career if the graduate program covers the areas of turfgrass.	9/15/2015 4:31 AM

## Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) Degree: Survey of Current Students at Darr School of Agriculture

29	In the education field having a graduate degree means more money in my paycheck, I also plan to teach at the university level one day therefore will need a masters and a Ph.D.	9/14/2015 8:03 PM
30	Today, the need for higher education is a necessity more than before. It is the ultimate survival of the "fittest".	9/14/2015 12:28 PM
31	I think any further education is always helpful especially when it relates to the field that a person is employed in.	9/14/2015 12:25 PM
32	Increase expertise in the specific field, and add value to my employment with a future company	9/14/2015 12:05 PM
33	I am currently in the Plant Science Graduate Program at Missouri State University through the Darr School of Agriculture. I believe the graduate program will make me a more competitive candidate when applying for positions related to agronomy, natural resources, and conservation. The graduate program will also make me qualified for more positions and give me the opportunity to "move up" in an agency I am working for.	9/14/2015 10:22 AM
34	Advance me to a higher salary/position and give me a higher advantage upon hire.	9/14/2015 10:14 AM
35	I hope to work with extension and the 4-H program so having a masters degree or even higher would help me to gain a wider base of knowledge and connections that would help me succeed in that field.	9/14/2016 10:07 AM
36	It's not only a resume builder, but helps increase the knowledge we have in our field by furthering our education.	9/14/2015 10:08 AM
37	I could be better equipped and have more knowledge about what I want to do so therefore I would have a better chance at getting a job compared to the next guy.	9/14/2015 10:06 AM
38	save money and time with my masters	9/13/2015 2:50 PM
39	further my education	9/13/2015 2:42 PM
40	Better credentials and knowledge. Separated from the rest in a way.	9/12/2016 8:38 PM
41	Help to improve my academics and give me more experience.	9/12/2016 1:33 PM
42	Education is always a good thing. The more I know, the more successful I'm likely to be.	9/12/2015 5:28 AM
43	I am hoping to enter the field of Veterinary Medicine, so a graduate degree program would greatly benefit my future career plans.	9/11/2015 11:18 PM
44	I would learn more specifically how my previous education can be used in the career field or business world. It would also look good on a resume.	9/11/2015 7:43 PM
45	By getting the highest education possible and becoming more marketable	9/11/2015 2:18 PM
46	I would gain extra knowledge in a specified field and would hopefully gain connections to help me obtain a career in the future	9/11/2015 12:59 PM
47	It would allow me to obtain greater skills necessary for the jobs I am seeking.	9/11/2015 11:59 AM
48	A higher education would further my career and help me make more money, too.	9/11/2015 11:23 AM
49	By providing me with better insight in the business world, allowing me to make more efficient decisions in the future, and increase my likelihood of career success.	9/11/2015 11:12 AM
50	It would help me in my career development by furthering my knowledge of my major and broaden my career options.	9/11/2015 9:59 AM
51	Make more money	9/11/2016 7:37 AM
52	Graduate schools have specific programs available for different careers. It would create more opportunities.	9/11/2015 7:22 AM
53	To get further into a field I'm interested in.	9/10/2015 10:25 PM
54	It will increase my salary as a teacher and better educate me.	9/10/2015 10:24 PM
55	It allows for career advancement, improves competitiveness in the job market. Creates more opportunities across career fields.	9/10/2015 9:24 PM
56	Increase salary.	9/10/2015 8:46 PM
57	A graduate program would help me to obtain a better career to provide for my family and let us do what we want to do in the livestock industry.	9/10/2015 8:44 PM
58	Higher pay and a more advanced starting position.	9/10/2015 8:25 PM
59	Not sure yet, just want to keep my options open if I find a job that I really enjoy in which graduate school is required.	9/10/2015 7:22 PM
60	I only plan on going to graduate school if the company will pay for it.	9/10/2015 6:57 PM

## Demand for Master in Agricultural Sciences (MAS) Degree: Survey of Current Students at Darr School of Agriculture

81	I'm not sure what I want to do with my life yet, and if I do graduate school, I'm hoping maybe it gives me some direction. It will at least, narrow things down.	9/10/2015 5:33 PM
82	A graduate program would allow me to further my education and would give me the skills and degree necessary to pursue upper level jobs with higher paying salaries.	9/10/2015 4:50 PM
83	Master of business or agriculture	9/10/2015 4:37 PM
84	This will add a tool in my tool chest, in case I want to seek further employment.	9/10/2015 3:10 PM
85	A graduate program will help expand my knowledge further before entering the workforce full time.	9/10/2015 1:22 PM
86	A graduate program will further my education in my career field and allow for more experiences.	9/10/2015 1:18 PM
87	I will have a larger range of jobs to choose from or discover new jobs along the way.	9/10/2015 1:00 PM
88	It would provide more opportunities to get ahead, make more money, and live an easier life.	9/10/2015 12:01 PM
89	It would help push me further into the job I would like to obtain.	9/10/2015 11:00 AM
70	This would help me broaden my studies in return help with better jobs.	9/10/2015 9:41 AM
71	Further my education for higher up positions.	9/10/2015 8:51 AM
72	I would like to teach at a junior college.	9/10/2015 7:10 AM
73	More skills and knowledge in my field of study	9/9/2015 8:04 PM
74	It would be a good transition program.	9/9/2015 7:18 PM
75	It would help me better my understanding of the career path I have chosen.	9/9/2015 7:02 PM
76	It would allow me to pick an area of agriculture that I enjoy and will be able to share my knowledge with future students.	9/9/2015 6:08 PM
77	I want to further develop skills in relation to managing people, dig into what makes a business successful and further develop a higher level of thinking beyond what I've gained at the undergrad level (although, I feel like I've grown up a ton while I've been in the Darr School of Agriculture).	9/9/2015 5:56 PM
78	I would imagine a graduate program would help with future job progression and financial stability.	9/9/2015 5:46 PM
79	It would allow for me to do advanced research to focus on more specialized areas in the field.	9/9/2015 5:25 PM
80	More competitive, better pay	9/9/2015 5:17 PM
81	I would like to study plant breeding and genetics so that I can get a higher level, better paying job with a masters.	9/9/2015 5:05 PM
82	A graduate program would give me more knowledge and skills that will better prepare me for a career in the field of my choosing. It will also make my resume look more appealing.	9/9/2015 4:22 PM
83	I am working with communications, and I feel like the knowledge gained from a graduate degree would greatly help me in my career.	9/9/2015 3:46 PM
84	It would help me develop more academically to make myself more noticeable in a future job.	9/9/2015 3:36 PM
85	I want to get my doctorate in Animal Science. I would be able to get a better job	9/9/2015 3:35 PM
86	A graduate degree could double my salary and help me to get a head sooner	9/9/2015 3:26 PM
87	more opportunities in my career field	9/9/2015 3:08 PM
88	It would help a lot. It would mean a pay raise and would be able to teach dual credit classes.	9/9/2015 3:03 PM
89	I would gain the necessary education to be competitive in my desired job market.	9/9/2015 2:54 PM
90	Achieving a higher position in the company.	9/9/2015 2:51 PM
91	It could help broaden my horizons as an individual, more technical skills, possibly more pay	9/9/2015 2:47 PM
92	I would be able to specialize and certain areas of my current major.	9/9/2015 2:34 PM
93	I would like to work as either a veterinarian or a college professor. Both of these careers require post-graduate education.	9/9/2015 2:06 PM
94	A graduate program would further my knowledge and experience. I also hope that having an agriculture masters would be more appealing to and agriculture employer.	9/9/2015 2:00 PM

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95	I chose to further my education so I can develop a more rounded education and gain more skills that I can use in my career.	9/9/2015 1:59 PM
96	It would like to have more of an emphasis on what I want to do.	9/9/2015 1:59 PM
97	I need a higher education to get a job	9/9/2015 1:58 PM
98	Right now my major is Agriculture Education, but I am also interested in plant science. I feel a graduate degree in plant science with open a few more career opportunities for me. And it would also help if I go on to be an agriculture teacher.	9/9/2015 1:57 PM
99	Gain experience	9/9/2015 1:57 PM
100	It would help me get ahead of everyone else that I am competing with to get into veterinary school.	9/9/2015 1:51 PM
101	Having a Masters Degree would put me a step ahead of other applicants for a job as well as mean a pay raise.	9/9/2015 1:40 PM
102	I am in Plant Sciences now, but would have loved an MAS program.	9/9/2015 1:34 PM
103	Pay Raise	9/9/2015 12:28 PM
104	To have the skill set to manage my own business, or to be a part of the administration process	9/9/2015 11:07 AM
105	I would love a graduate program that will help me in my career because I know I need to get my masters degree directly after college because personally, I would most likely not be able to take off a few years from school and go back to school.	9/9/2015 10:12 AM
106	Better pay with a masters! Application of studies and lab experience. Freedom to experiment under the tutelage of working professors.	9/9/2015 9:51 AM
107	It will help prepare me more efficiently for the real world. I will have more experience and knowledge in my field.	9/9/2015 9:20 AM
108	Continuing education and development.	9/9/2015 7:50 AM
109	With AgEd being such a wide variety of things, the more I can learn the better. Also, teachers with their masters tend to get paid more, which is a plus.	9/8/2015 11:28 AM
110	More knowledgeable	9/8/2015 11:00 PM
111	More knowledgeable in my field and make more money.	9/8/2015 10:51 PM
112	I want to be a lawyer, so going to law school would practically be the only way to achieve that career goal.	9/8/2015 10:44 PM
113	Further increase my knowledge and give me a better chance at finding a job.	9/8/2015 10:21 PM
114	It would help me understand genetics.	9/8/2015 9:51 PM
115	Help me achieve what I need without having to travel very far or relocate	9/8/2015 9:44 PM
116	Going on to graduate school after my undergraduate will help me to specialize in the field I would like to pursue in the field of agriculture.	9/8/2015 8:51 PM
117	Continuing my education by becoming part of a graduate program would give me more of a centered/narrower field of study. Which is what I am looking for. A more personal degree and extending my education.	9/8/2015 8:10 PM
118	I have to get my doctorate.	9/8/2015 8:08 PM
119	It will give me creative control over research I want to do.	9/8/2015 8:04 PM
120	I feel as if it would help further advance in my future career. Many jobs today require students to have a masters degree.	9/8/2015 8:03 PM
121	I need a doctorate to achieve the career I want.	9/8/2015 7:58 PM
122	It would help me to further my study interests and focus on more specific study topics.	9/8/2015 7:56 PM
123	Increase in salary	9/8/2015 6:57 PM
124	Better paying job and more experience for teaching agriculture	9/8/2015 6:55 PM
125	Well I'm hoping it would further educate me and thus allowing me different job opportunities that I wouldn't have if I didn't go into a graduate program.	9/8/2015 5:37 PM
126	It will prepare me for a career in veterinary medicine.	9/8/2015 5:30 PM

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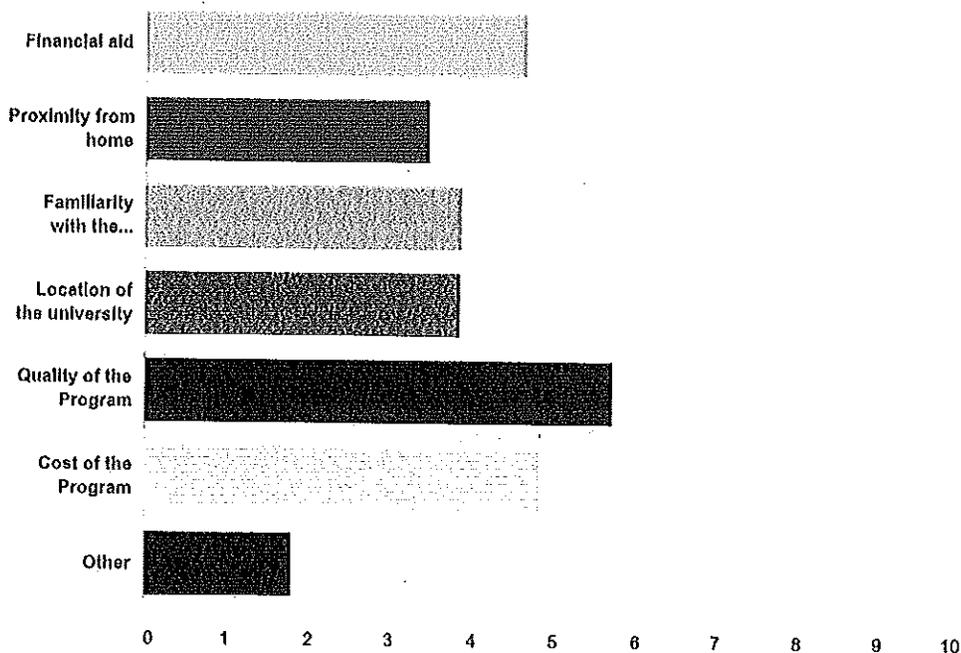
127	Graduate school will help set me apart from other agricultural communications graduates as I have chosen to further my education above primary requirements. In addition, I am learning skills that were not emphasized or taught in my undergraduate, which makes me more marketable.	9/8/2015 5:23 PM
128	Advancement withing a company, Higher starting salary, Prestige.	9/8/2015 5:01 PM
129	A graduate program would help with competitive job positions and salary.	9/8/2015 4:59 PM
130	It would add more credibility to my degree, as well as help my salary. Mostly, I think it would be most beneficial for me to have a masters degree because it would give me the education that other people may not have, putting me as a more viable candidate for the job.	9/8/2015 4:28 PM
131	It would give more focused training than an BS program due to a lower student-teacher ratio	9/8/2015 4:09 PM
132	As I plan to go on to become a vet I feel like the advanced studies would help me be more knowledgeable about my patients.	9/8/2015 4:04 PM
133	Better opportunities, make me more competitive in the job market.	9/8/2015 3:50 PM
134	It would provide flexibility to work in higher education to teach and advise in many diverse areas instead of only one single one.	9/8/2015 3:47 PM
135	Master's Degrees are a step above a common Bachelor's Degree and unfortunately a BS degree seems to have become common like a high school diploma. A MAS degree would provide an extra edge to a potential candidate applying for a career.	9/8/2015 3:37 PM
136	More knowledge and have a better chance of getting a job. Also looks and sounds good to have a masters degree.	9/8/2015 3:34 PM
137	In the agriculture communications and public policy field, not many organizations and companies pay for graduate studies after you are hired but having that additional degree will help me further my career options.	9/8/2015 3:34 PM
138	More experience and higher degrees means more opportunities in my career	9/8/2015 3:32 PM
139	It would let me have my masters in horticulture. Saying that I will have my masters and that I know more than the average person.	9/8/2015 3:30 PM
140	Would allow me to more opportunities for higher paying jobs or promotions.	9/8/2015 3:29 PM
141	prepare me further to pursue the correct career path	9/8/2015 3:21 PM
142	The graduate program would help me get my foot in the door with more management and supervising opportunities in my career path.	9/8/2015 3:18 PM
143	In this day and age, a higher education affords an individual with more employment opportunities. Employers appreciate individuals who go the extra mile, and a Master's indicates to them that an individual has more knowledge and is driven to accomplish goals. I hope that higher education will enable me with the skills to find the career I want.	9/8/2015 3:16 PM
144	Higher level education would help me prepare more for future career goals.	9/8/2015 3:00 PM
145	It would further my education in my field of study which would in turn further my capabilities when it comes to careers in my field.	9/8/2015 2:51 PM
146	It would help me continue to my future career of being a veterinarian	9/8/2015 2:35 PM
147	Providing classes that are taught at an easy to learn level.	9/8/2015 2:33 PM
148	It would fulfill the need to have a master degree program.	9/8/2015 2:30 PM
149	A graduate program would put my above my peers. It will allow me to go into my desired career field and not start on the very bottom.	9/8/2015 2:20 PM
150	The Masters in Agriculture Science graduate program is exactly the program that I am looking to go into. In order for me to be able to do my masters at Missouri State, I would have to have something different than what we have available now. I strongly encourage implementing the Masters in Agriculture Science program.	9/8/2015 2:16 PM
151	I would be able to make more money in my future career	9/8/2015 2:12 PM
152	Better able to own/operate my own business on a higher scale to be competitive with other businesses.	9/8/2015 2:06 PM
153	It would be unbelievably helpful.	9/8/2015 2:04 PM
154	Help me be able to better able to obtain a job in an area interest	9/8/2015 2:04 PM
155	It will enhance my field of study where ill have an opportunity to specialize on my module and be as best as I can in it in order to help in more research	9/8/2015 2:04 PM

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166	It would make me more employable and provide advanced knowledge in my areas of interest.	9/8/2015 2:02 PM
157	I want to be a veterinarian. So a lot	9/8/2015 2:01 PM
168	Help me learn valuable skills and further my knowledge of agriculture.	9/8/2015 2:00 PM
169	Obtain more education to start off with a higher rate of pay.	9/8/2015 1:59 PM
160	I really do not want a MS in Plant Science and would like to remain in the School of Ag program for my Master's. A Master in Agricultural Sciences degree would be highly beneficial	9/8/2015 1:59 PM
161	A Master's degree is required for my planned career.	9/8/2015 1:58 PM
162	Provide practical experience	9/8/2015 1:58 PM
163	better on resume and increase experience	9/8/2015 1:57 PM
164	It would allow me to gain more knowledge and experience in my field.	9/8/2015 1:57 PM
165	More defined study and classes for what I will be doing post grad school career	9/8/2015 1:56 PM

**Q4 What are the important criteria for selecting a graduate school? Please rank (assign 1 to the most important criteria, 2 to the second most important and so on)**

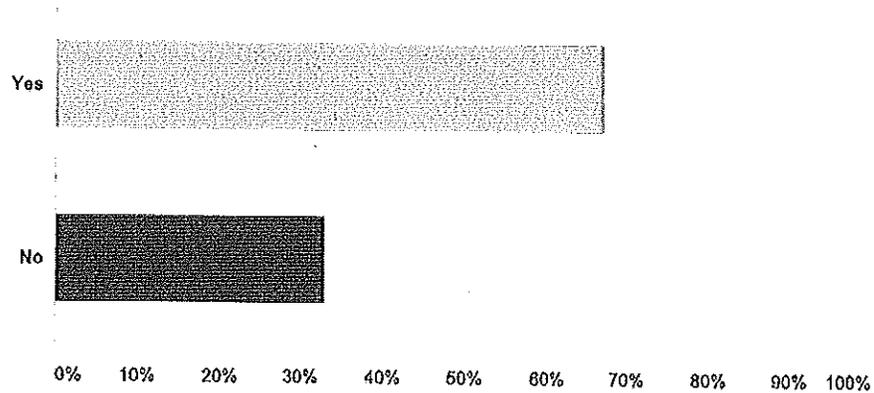
Answered: 209 Skipped: 24



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Financial aid	18.46% 36	18.97% 37	20.51% 40	10.77% 21	14.36% 28	13.85% 27	3.08% 6	195	4.63
Proximity from home	6.70% 13	10.31% 20	8.25% 16	17.53% 34	20.10% 39	29.90% 58	7.22% 14	194	3.47
Familiarity with the Institution and faculty	5.13% 10	15.38% 30	14.36% 28	18.97% 37	22.05% 43	21.03% 41	3.08% 6	195	3.87
Location of the university	6.19% 12	6.70% 13	18.56% 36	23.20% 45	26.29% 51	17.53% 34	1.55% 3	194	3.85
Quality of the Program	45.77% 92	19.40% 39	14.43% 29	8.06% 18	5.47% 11	1.49% 3	4.48% 9	201	5.69
Cost of the Program	16.50% 34	25.73% 53	19.42% 40	16.99% 35	7.77% 16	10.68% 22	2.91% 6	206	4.83
Other	3.14% 6	3.77% 8	4.40% 9	3.14% 6	5.03% 10	5.03% 10	75.47% 150	159	1.80

**Q5 According to a study published by Purdue University, between 2015 and 2020, the food and agricultural industry expects to see nearly 60,000 average annual openings for jobs for graduates with Bachelor's, Master's or higher degrees in agricultural sciences. The Master of Science in Agricultural Sciences program further advances an education on the issues in agriculture with emphasis areas in animal sciences, agricultural business, education and communications, as well as natural resources. If the Darr School of Agriculture at Missouri State University offers the above-described Master's program, are you likely to join the program immediately after the graduation?**

Answered: 233 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	66.95%	156
No	33.05%	77
<b>Total</b>		<b>233</b>