



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

TRANSMITTAL

DATE: May 19, 2004

MAY 24 2004

TO: Rebecca Scott  
Senate Council

FROM: Lissa Holland   
Graduate Council

**The Graduate School**  
351 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
(859) 257-4613  
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[www.rgs.uky.edu/gsl](http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gsl)

The Graduate Council met on May 6, 2004 and approved the following:

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

*Agricultural Economics*

New Course

**AEC 790 Research in Ag Economics (3-9 credits)**

Independent Research under the direction of a faculty member and the DGS. Variable credit may be repeated to a maximum of 18 hours.

***Prerequisites:*** Successful completion of written portion of AEC qualifying exam and permission of Director of Graduate Studies.

## APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by College of Agriculture Date 10-13-03  
 Department/Division offering course  
Agricultural Economics
  
2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:
  - (a) AEC 790 (b) Research work in Ag Economics  
 Prefix and Number Title\*
  - (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lecture/Discussion hours per week Laboratory hours per week
  - (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (f) 3-9  
 Studio hours per week Credits
  - (g) Course description:  
Independent Research under the direction of a faculty member and the DGS.
  - (h) Prerequisites (if any):  
Successful completion of written portion of AEC qualifying exam and permission of Director of Graduate Studies.
  - (i) May be repeated to a maximum of 18 hours (if applicable)
  
3. To be cross-listed as:  
 Prefix and Number Signature, Chair, cross-listing department
  
4. Effective Date: Fall-2004 (semester and year)
  
5. Course to be offered (a) Fall (b) Spring (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall Spring Summer
  
6. Will the course be offered each year? Yes, less frequently  
 (Explain if not annually):
  
7. Why is this course needed:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Note: If the title is longer than 24 characters (including spaces), write a sensible title (not exceeding 24 characters) for use on transcripts:

The department needs to expand independent work option for doctoral students.

8. (a) By whom will the course be taught? Dissertation Supervisors

(b) Are facilities for teaching the course now available?  No  Yes

If not, what plans have been made for providing them?

9. What enrollment may be reasonably anticipated? 2-3 students per semester.

10. Will this course serve students in the Department primarily?  No  Yes

Will it be of service to a significant number of students outside the Department?  
 No  Yes If so, explain

Will the course serve as a University Studies Program course?  No  Yes

If yes, under what Area?

11. Check the category most applicable to this course:

traditional; offered in corresponding departments elsewhere;

relatively new, now being widely established

not yet to be found in many (or any) other universities

12. Is this course part of a proposed new program?  No  Yes If yes, which?

13. Will adding this course change the degree requirements in one or more programs?\*

No  Yes If yes, explain the change(s).

14. Attach a list of the major teaching objectives of the proposed course and outline and/or reference list to be used.

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\* Note: Approval of this course will constitute approval of the program change unless other program modifications are proposed.

15. If the course is a 100-200 level course, please submit evidence (e.g., correspondence) that the Community College System has been consulted.
  
16. Within the Department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed course?  
Name Dr. David Freshwater Phone Extension: 7-1872

APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

Signatures of Approval:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Department Chair

4-2-04  
102802  
Date

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Dean of the College

4/13/04  
Date

Date of Notice to the Faculty

\*Undergraduate Council

Date

\*University Studies

Date

*Blackwell*

\*Graduate Council

5-19-04

Date

\*Academic Council for the Medical Center

Date

\*Senate Council (Chair)

Date of Notice to University Senate

\*If applicable, as provided by the Rules of the University Senate

ACTION OTHER THAN APPROVAL

Course Description  
AEC 790: Dissertation Prospectus Research

This is not a lecture course. It exists solely to allow students who have completed their course work and part of their qualifying exam in Agricultural Economics to be registered at the University of Kentucky while finishing the balance of their qualifying exam and becoming PhD candidates. If this course is not approved we will force students into taking additional formal courses in order to fulfill the requirement for full time status. This will lead to them not completing their dissertation research which will effectively end their progress.

The course provides necessary registration status while the student completes a dissertation prospectus that is required before the oral portion of the qualifying exam can be completed. While registered the student will work under the supervision of their dissertation advisor and committee.

## Rationale For AEC 790

Due to changes in the doctoral program in Agricultural Economics the time from when a student finishes taking courses to the time they formally become a doctoral candidate is now a full semester, and in cases where the student has problems with the written portion of the qualifying exam two full semesters. We currently have no courses available for these students.

Since all students are required to maintain full time status in order to be covered for health insurance and international students are required to maintain full time status in order to satisfy their visa requirements this is a serious problem. AEC 790 is designed to allow students to register for up to two semesters (up to 18 credits total) in a course that recognizes they are making progress towards their degree but not through formal class work. The 790 number is used by other departments including, Physics, Psychology and Pharmacy for similar courses that involve advisor supervised work that prepares a student for the candidacy process. Without this course the Department of Agricultural Economics will be unable to move students through its doctoral program without them falling below full time status for at least one semester.

The problem exists because we currently have a three part qualifying exam. Students who are ready take a common written exam that is offered twice a year in January and June. If they fail they have the opportunity to take this exam one more time the next time it is offered. If they fail a second time they are dropped from the program. Currently we have about a 20% failure rate on both the first and second attempts.

After passing the written exam students have to prepare a thesis prospectus that must be approved by their committee. This typically takes about three to four months. Once their prospectus is approved they can then schedule their oral exam, which is the final hurdle before they become doctoral candidates.

For students who are successful in the first attempt at the written exam there is roughly a six month period where they are currently in limbo in terms of registration status. All of the existing courses, including AEC 780, are designed to be oriented to formal coursework with grades assigned on the basis of work performed. This makes them inappropriate for registration purposes for students who have already completed their formal coursework requirements.

For students who fail the written portion of the qualifying exam the first time this limbo period lasts about two semesters, with the first six months spent studying for the second attempt at the written exam.



C119

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeannine Blackwell, Dean  
Graduate School

FROM: Nancy Cox, Associate Dean for Research

DATE: April 12, 2004

RE: New Course Application

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Cox', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Attached is an application for new course AEC 790. This course has been reviewed by the College of Agriculture's Graduate Curriculum Committee and circulated to College of Agriculture faculty members.

Please let me know if you need additional information. Thank you.



## Holland, Lissa

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From: Graduate.Council.Web.Site@www.uky.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2004 4:03 PM  
To: Holland, Lissa  
Subject: Investigator Report

AnyForm User: www.uky.edu  
AnyForm Document: <http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gc/GCInvestigatorReport.html>  
AnyForm Server: www.uky.edu (/www/htdocs/AnyFormTurbo/AnyForm.php)

College/Department/Unit: = AEC 790 (C119)  
Category: = New  
Date\_for\_Council\_Review: = May 6, 2004  
Recommendation\_is: = Approve with Reservation  
Investigator: = David Hulse  
E-mail\_Address = dshuls00@uky.edu  
For\_Consent\_Agenda? = no  
1\_\_Modifications: = None, although Prof. Freshwater said that his department is flexible in accepting changes that Graduate Council might have.  
2\_\_Considerations: = (1) How would grades be determined? Prof. Freshwater was not sure and said that the department would rather have the course be a zero-credit course. (2) Feasibility of having succesful completion of written portion of qualifying exam as a prerequisite. Prof. Freshwater said that the department could be flexible here. (3) Lack of teaching objectives.  
3\_\_Contacts: = Prof. David Freshwater, Professor of Agricultural Economics  
4\_\_Additional\_Information: = None

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