Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
Graduate Programs
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-2116
http://alec.tamu.edu

Statement of Equal Opportunity in Educational Programs

“The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Edward W. Romero, Ph.D.; Director of Diversity and Inclusion; Texas A&M AgriLife, 2147 TAMU; College Station, TX 77843-2147. Call 979-845-2423. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to Mr. Steve Schulze, Chief Human Resources Officer and Director of Special Projects, Texas A&M AgriLife Human Resources.”

Application Deadlines for U. S. Citizens and International Applicants

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Doctoral and Master’s candidates will be reviewed and admitted once a year.

The Department will host a Prospective Student Recruitment Symposium every fall between October 1 and November 15. Prospective master’s applicants are welcome and encouraged to attend the symposium. Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials before the deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to attend the symposium to participate in campus interview.

During the symposium, prospective applicants will meet ALEC’s faculty, staff, and current and former students. Additionally, activities scheduled during the symposium will help familiarize prospective applicants with the strengths of ALEC’s research, teaching, and extension elements, and introduce prospective applicants to the expectations of the programs.

Registration for the Fall 2019 Recruitment Symposium is NOW open!
Visit our web page to RSVP, https://alec.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/how-to-apply/.

Application Procedures

Texas A&M University is noted for its comprehensive graduate degree programs in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications. Our programs have much to offer. When you apply to a graduate program, you must submit an application through ApplyTexas to Texas A&M University Office of Admissions and Records. To complete the file with the Office of Admissions and Records, the following items must be submitted:

- Submit the ApplyTexas application. Apply online at http://applytexas.org.
- Official transcripts from each higher education institution previously attended, excluding a TAMU transcript.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. These scores can be designated at the time of testing to be sent to Texas A&M University, code 6003. Our department will accept GRE scores up to three (3) years old if the applicant can provide an original copy of the official scores. To schedule at a testing center, please refer to the web site, http://www.gre.org.

For an applicant to be considered for review by the ALEC Graduate Admission Committee for admission to one of our programs, an individual must meet a minimum criterion score. This criterion score is calculated using the individual percentile scores of the GRE and the GPA (Masters – use last 60 hours of undergraduate work; Doctoral – use Master’s GPA). The minimum criterion score for master’s is 350; minimum criterion score for doctorate is 400. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and Grade Point Average (GPA) data used to calculate your criterion score is outlined in detail on the last page of this document.
International students - If you do not obtain at least 146 on the GRE Verbal portion, the TOEFL or IELTS exam is required. (see detailed information on the Office of Graduate Studies web page at http://ogs.tamu.edu for directions for waivers).

The Texas State Legislature passed SB 1107, requiring all entering students under the age of 22 at public and private institutions of higher education to provide evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or a signed affidavit declining the vaccination. If a distance student taking online courses, you may waive this requirement by completing a waiver form, see web page, http://admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis. Proof of vaccination, decline affidavit, or DE waiver must be submitted to the TAMU Office of Admissions and Records prior to your first semester of enrollment.

We highly encourage applicants to reach out and have conversations with the faculty in the same research and interest areas as their own. If no conversation has been made with faculty the applicant will not be reviewed by the graduate admissions committee. Please refer to the department web page, at http://alec.tamu.edu for detailed information about our graduate faculty as well as in the end of this handout.

**Minimum Criteria Required for ALEC Graduate Admission Committee Review**

For an applicant to be considered for review by the ALEC Graduate Admission Committee for admission to one of our programs, the following minimum criteria must be achieved and all other application materials submitted. Action for departmental admission committee review cannot be conducted until all required materials have been submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions and the Department. Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee admission to a degree program.

- The minimum GPA for master’s applicants from last 60 hours of undergraduate work must be 3.0;
- The minimum GPA for doctoral applicants must be 3.5 obtained from Master’s program. If master’s degree not obtained, GPA of at least last 60 hours of undergraduate work will be calculated.
- A minimum GRE-Writing score of 3.0 must be obtained for master’s applicants, a minimum of 4.0 must be obtained for doctoral applicants. Official Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores must be valid and taken within the last three (3) years.
- Must meet a minimum criterion score total calculated by using the individual percentile scores of the GRE and the GPA (master’s – use last 60 hours of undergraduate work; doctoral – use Masters GPA). The minimum criterion score for master’s is 350; minimum criterion score for doctorate is 400.
- Statement of Purpose and Professional Goals statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ areas of specialization.
- All applicants are highly encouraged to reach out and have conversations with faculty in the same research and interest area as their own. **If no conversation has been made with faculty the applicant will not be reviewed by the graduate admissions committee.**

**Additional items for Admission**

- Current résumé/CV.
- Master’s applicants must submit at least (3) three Letters of Recommendation in a position to assess the applicant’s professional qualifications and achievements. Limit of one from the ALEC department faculty or staff.
- Doctoral applicants must submit at least (5) five Letters of Recommendation in a position to assess the applicant’s professional qualifications and achievements. Limit of one from the ALEC department faculty or staff.
- Doctoral applicants must submit at least two writing samples to demonstrate writing proficiency.
- Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials before the deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to attend the recruitment symposium to participate in a campus interview as part of the admission process.

Applicants who meet the criteria indicated above and submit complete admission packets by the deadline will be reviewed by a graduate admission committee. Final decisions will be determined and a letter is sent to the candidates within a month after each symposium.

**International Students**

If at least 146 is not score on the GRE Verbal portion international applicants from non-English-speaking countries must score 550 (paper-based)/213 (computer-based)/80 (Internet-based) or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 6.0 on the IELTS exam. Scores must be no more than two years old. A satisfactory score on oral and written English proficiency examinations is required after arrival on campus. See http://international.tamu.edu/ for additional information about procedures and requirements.
Suggested Timeline for Admission Procedures

7 weeks before deadline:

- **Take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** and request scores to be sent to TAMU. Exam scores must be valid and taken within the last three (3) years. Make sure you select the TAMU code 6003 to send the scores electronically to TAMU (http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/).

- **International Students - Take the TOEFL or IELTS exam**
  - Required for international students whose native language is not English. TOEFL is waived with a 146 GRE verbal score or by receiving a baccalaureate degree with all four years of attendance at a US college or university. Exam must be taken within the last two (2) years and must be sent electronically, select TAMU code 6003.

5 weeks before the deadline:

- **Submit Application to Texas A&M University through Apply Texas** (on-line at http://www.applytexas.org) – DO NOT WAIT until the day before or the day of the posted deadline to submit your application. It will take 3-5 days to process the application from Apply Texas to Texas A&M Admissions Office. It is ideal to submit the application at least a month prior to the posted deadline.
  - Pay Application Fee - $65 for U.S. citizens; $90 for International applicants

- **Request Transcripts** – Transcripts from each higher education institution attended are required, excluding TAMU. If you did not graduate from TAMU, request official transcripts to be sent to Office of Admissions & Records electronically or mailed to the address indicated below. Transcripts must be requested early as it may take weeks for them to arrive:
  
  Graduate Admissions Processing  
  Office of Admissions and Records  
  Texas A&M University  
  P.O. Box 40001  
  College Station, TX 77842-4001

4 weeks before deadline:

- **Create your TAMU NETID and Password** - Once you have submitted the application in Apply Texas and the application has been processed to the TAMU Admissions Office, you will be provided a University Identification Number (UIN) or if have one, informed that your current UIN has been activated.
  - After notification of UIN – You must activate it. Use the UIN to access TAMU Gateway, http://gateway.tamu.edu, to activate your current or create a new NETID and password. This NETID and password will be your log in details to check your admission status. Memorize this information – If admitted, this NETID will be used for every aspect in the Howdy Portal while you are completing your graduate program, including registration, tuition payment, graduation details, etc.

- **Check Admission Status/Upload admission documents in TAMU Applicant Information System (AIS)**
  - Once the NETID and password has been activated or created, use the NETID and password to access the Applicant Information System (AIS), http://applicant.tamu.edu, to check admission status and upload admission materials.

- **Request Letters of Recommendation (Limit of one from the ALEC department)**
  - 3 for Master’s; 5 for Doctoral
  - We require all letters of recommendation to be submitted through TAMU AIS system. Access and locate the area in AIS to enter you recommenders email addresses to send the recommendation form to the recommenders as an email correspondence. This will permit recommenders to submit the form back electronically.

3 weeks before deadline:

- **Access the TAMU Applicant Information System (AIS) system, http://applicant.tamu.edu** to review and check to make sure all remaining items have been received or uploaded in AIS system:
  - **Statement of Purpose and Professional Career Goals** – Statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ specialization areas. (This statement may be submitted as part of your Apply Texas application or sent directly to the Graduate Coordinator, if submitted either place, please do not duplicate).
  - **Résumé or Curriculum Vitae**
Required for Doctoral candidates only: At least two writing samples are required to demonstrate writing proficiency.

Required for all - Departmental Data Sheet: Access the TAMU AIS system and complete all information. All applicants are encouraged to make contact and have conversation with the faculty in the same research and interest area as their own and indicate those names on this departmental data sheet. If no conversation has been made with faculty the applicant will not be reviewed by the graduate admissions committee.

Required for all - Confirmation Page: After all admission materials have been submitted into AIS (including all transcripts, GRE scores, and letters of recommendation), applicants should complete confirmation of materials page. This confirmation page is necessary for an application to be considered complete.

2 weeks prior to any enrollment:

- Bacterial Meningitis Verification - All entering students under the age of 22 at public and private institutions of higher education must provide evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or a signed affidavit declining the vaccination. If a distance student taking online courses, you may waive this requirement by completing a waiver form, see web page, http://admissions.tamu.edu/meningitis. Proof of vaccination, decline affidavit, or DE waiver must be submitted to the TAMU Office of Admissions and Records prior to your first semester of enrollment.

The Settings Where ALEC Professionals Work

Graduate students will apply their area(s) of interest in a particular work setting. Students are encouraged to visit with faculty in the same research and interest area and prepare you for one of these work settings:

1) Agricultural Communications/Agricultural Journalism (completed as a campus MS-Thesis option only), 2) eLearning/Instructional Design, 3) Extension Education, 4) International Agricultural Development, 5) Organizational and Community Leadership, and 6) Teacher Education (completed as a campus degree program only).

Departmental Areas of Expertise

Graduate students, in consultation with a graduate advisor and a graduate advisory committee, may select different areas of expertise to emphasize in their programs. These include: 1) Change Theory and Processes, 2) Learning and Cognition, 3) Planning and Needs Assessment, 4) Communication Theory and Practice, 5) Leadership Education Theory and Applications, 6) Instructional Design and Delivery, 7) Evaluation and Performance Measures, and 8) Research, Measurement, and Analysis.

Graduate Degrees Offered

1. Master of Science (thesis or non-thesis option) – major in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications
2. Master of Agriculture (non-thesis, distance education only) – major in Agricultural Development
3. Doctor of Philosophy (dissertation required) - major in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications

Master of Science (M.S.) – Thesis Option

The Master of Science (thesis), a research-oriented degree program, requires a minimum of 32 semester credit hours of approved coursework. This research-oriented degree program prepares individuals to be professionals in national and international agricultural settings employed as instructional designers, extension agents, human resource managers, communication specialists, and leadership organizational program coordinators. Required courses: Principles of Adult Education (ALEC 610); Philosophy of Agricultural Education (ALEC 615); Methods of Technological Change (ALEC 640); Frontiers in Research (ALEC 695). In addition, one hour of Seminar (ALEC 681), a statistics course, and 3-4 hours of research (ALEC 691) is required. Coursework in the supporting fields may be in any academic area that contributes to a student’s career objective.

Master of Science (M.S.) – Non-Thesis Option

The Master of Science (non-thesis option), a professionally-oriented degree program, requires a minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved coursework. Students whose career objectives are concerned with formal or informal education in agriculture in areas such as teaching agricultural sciences, working as an Extension educator, in training and development or international agriculture development seek this program. Required courses: Principles of Adult Education (ALEC 610); Philosophy of Agricultural Education (ALEC 615); Methods of Technological Change (ALEC 640); Frontiers in Research (ALEC 695); Seminar (ALEC 681). Coursework in the supporting fields may be in any academic area that contributes to a student’s career objective.
Master of Agriculture (M.Agr.) – Distance Education only

The Master of Agriculture (non-thesis), a professionally-oriented degree program, requires a minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved coursework. This degree is completed as distance education. To demonstrate problem solving capabilities, a professional internship may be completed to provide meaningful, applied, and practical experience. The internship may involve either paid or un-paid employment with a cooperating business or agency. A professional paper is presented to the committee. Four required courses: Principles of Adult Education (ALEC 610); Philosophy of Agricultural Education (ALEC 615); Methods of Technological Change (ALEC 640); Frontiers in Research (ALEC 695). In addition, a Professional Study (ALEC 693) course may be completed. Coursework in the supporting fields may be in any academic area that contributes to a student’s career objective.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The Doctor of Philosophy is a specialized, research-oriented degree designed to prepare individuals for university faculty positions, public and corporate leadership roles in education, extension education, international development, and many other professional careers in agriculture and life sciences. The program requires a minimum of 64 semester credit hours, beyond a master’s degree, which includes 12 hours of dissertation research and a comprehensive research sequence of 18 hours of research methods. Four required courses: Principles of Adult Education (ALEC 610); Philosophy of Agricultural Education (ALEC 615); Methods of Technological Change (ALEC 640); Frontiers in Research (ALEC 695). Coursework in the supporting fields may be in any academic area that contributes to a student’s career objective.

Residency Requirement

Texas A&M University requires all graduate students to complete a residence requirement during their degree program. The major purpose of this requirement is to ensure that the student has an opportunity to benefit from the advantages of a university environment. Advantages may include, but not limited to, accessibility of library, and physical facilities, and opportunities to participate in a variety of cultural activities. Equally important to the graduate student are the advantages of becoming acquainted with the faculty and other students on a personal and a professional basis. The most important advantage is to ensure that the faculty have the opportunity to properly evaluate an individual and his or her development to guide and direct his or her studies and to determine competency. Please refer to the degree program of interest below:

Master of Science (thesis or non-thesis) - complete 9 credit hours during one regular semester or one 10-week summer semester.

Master of Agriculture - complete 12 credit hours during the degree program, on campus or at a distance.

Doctor of Philosophy - complete 9 credit hours in two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester adjacent to 10-week summer semester. (Fall-Spring; Spring-Summer; Summer-Fall)

If an individual is employed full-time while completing their degree program, the residence requirements may be fulfilled (or waived) by completion of less-than-full course loads. Employees must submit verification to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) within the semester following the degree plan approval. Verification includes: 1) on office letterhead, a memo indicating date of employment, position held and job title; and 2) a waiver or exceptions electronic petition (http://ogsdpss.tamu.edu) submitted to OGAPS, which needs to indicate requesting waiver because of full-time employment and place of employment.

Financing Your Education

Pursuing graduate study is expensive. Assistantship, fellowship and scholarship opportunities are highly competitive and deadlines occur early in the spring semester. If interested in applying for financial support or assistance for fall semesters, complete application materials must be submitted by the appropriate fall deadlines.

ALEC Departmental Assistantships

Assistantships are available on a competitive basis to qualified individuals. An applicant cannot be considered for an assistantship until all admission materials have been received and a review has been conducted by the departmental graduate admission committee. If offered a position, specific assignments are made based upon the needs of the Department and the experience of the students. Applications for assistantships can be found at http://alec.tamu.edu/student-opportunities/assistantships/. A letter of interest specifically detailing your qualifications is required to accompany the application. You may apply for more than one assistantship position. Assistantship applications are typically submitted by the deadline for fall review, however, they may be submitted at any time as positions may become available.
ALEC Graduate Scholarships

Scholarships are available to assist in funding graduate study for exceptional students. We encourage students to pursue scholarships from all available sources by submitting an application through the TAMU Scholarships and Financial Office. The Department offers several scholarships and these applications will open each fall which are awarded for the following fall. A review will take place by an ALEC scholarship committee and decisions are announced to the recipients in April. Although you do not apply to a specific scholarship, the Department offers five graduate scholarships in which students are eligible for.

- **Mary Nell and Frederick P. Cherry ’41 Memorial Scholarship**: Awarded to a one or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.
- **R.B. Dooley ’39 Endowed Scholarship**: Awarded to a one or more full-time out-of-state masters or doctoral students pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.
- **Myrna and John Hendrick ’57 Graduate Scholarship**: Awarded to one or more full-time masters students pursuing a Master of Education degree program.
- **Frank Sheppard Scholarship**: Awarded to one or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good standing with research interests related to Community Resources and Economic Development Programs of Texas Cooperative Extension.
- **G. Rollie White FFA Scholarship**: Highly competitive scholarship in which the recipient is an ALEC graduate student engaged in agricultural leadership, education, and communications.

Graduate Fellowships

Graduate fellowships are available for truly outstanding scholars on a competitive basis from several funding sources available for first-time admission entry in the fall semester. TAMU fellowship programs require the applicant to be nominated by a faculty member. Fellowships are awards to study and may require an assistantship in conjunction with the award. Most fellowships come with their own academic requirements and time limitations. Students on fellowship may volunteer for departmental assignments to gain the experience.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Fellowships

**Merit Fellowship**
This is a one year fellowship that aims to recruit and matriculate top quality Ph.D. graduate students and Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a clear career objective to pursue a Ph.D.; and especially students with the potential to make unique contributions to our graduate program. The fellowship is at the departmental base rate +10% for one year plus funding to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and the graduate student health plan. The department must agree to provide assistantship funding in future years at the departmental rate and develop a mentoring plan. Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for this award.

**Excellence Fellowship**
This is a one year fellowship with the goal to recruit and matriculate top quality M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students, especially students that add diversity to the graduate program. The Excellence Fellowship is a one-half departmental based assistantship. The Department/College supplies a 1/2-time effort assistantship written at half the departmental base assistantship rate. Preference is given to Ph.D. students or Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a career objective to pursue a Ph.D.

**Texas A&M Graduate Diversity Fellowship (OGAPS)**
These are two or three-year fellowships used to recruit top incoming students who contribute to the diversity of the student body. As the amount of the award may vary per year, currently the award includes a $13,000 stipend per year for two years for master’s students and an $18,000 stipend per year for three years for doctoral students. In addition, $9,000 per year is provided for tuition and fees for two years for masters, three years for doctoral students. Students who receive this award are offered a departmental assistantship position required to work as a teaching assistant each year. Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for this award. Qualified students are nominated by faculty and the nomination packets are submitted to OGAPS. Recipients are determined by OGAPS.
For information on the approximate costs of attending graduate school, visit the Student Business Services web page, http://finance.tamu.edu/sbs/. In addition to financial support described above, opportunities for financial assistance through work study, financial aid, and participation in departmental contract work may be possible.

- **Financial aid and work study:** Contact the Office of Graduate Student Financial Aid (including grants and loans) at (979) 847-9061. All students may be eligible to apply for Financial Aid. However, if you are approved for government financial assistance (AFSFA), and you receive any other financial assistance, such as scholarships, fellowships, grants for conference registration or travel costs (plane tickets, meals etc.), awards (ex: essay contest), prizes (gift cards) and gifts for academic pursuits or achievements, please be aware these types of funding may reduce the amount of Financial Aid you receive.

- **University fellowships or scholarships:** Contact the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) at 979-845-3631, or http://ogaps.tamu.edu. Deadlines occur early January, therefore, to be eligible for these opportunities it is suggested to submit applications materials in December of previous year.

- **Part-time employment within TAMU System:** Contact the TAMU Department of Human Resources at 979-845-5154.

- **Housing information:** Contact the Housing Office at 979-845-7336. Housing information:
  - Part-time employment within TAMU System: Contact the TAMU Department of Human Resources at 979-845-5154.

### Departmental Graduate Faculty

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications at Texas A&M University is widely recognized as among the top three departments in the nation. Faculty members in the Department provide leadership to national and international organizations within the discipline. All applicants are encouraged to make contact and have conversations with faculty in their same research and interest area as their own prior to applying. Faculty names should be indicated on the departmental data sheet in the Admissions portal. All applicants interested in beginning graduate studies are encouraged to come and attend a Prospective Student Recruitment Symposium which is offered every fall semester to learn more about faculty research and interest and graduate student opportunities. Visit our HOW TO APPLY web page often for the most up-to-date information about the symposium, https://alec.tamu.edu/academics/graduate/how-to-apply/.

Graduate faculty who work full-time in the department cluster into learning/teaching teams based primarily on the settings where we work. The following list may help you to locate potential faculty members with research expertise and interest areas in your own focused area of study. Please note, faculty may have interests that cross several different areas which are identified by the interests listed for each.

### Agricultural Communications-Agricultural Journalism Faculty

**Holli Leggette Archer,** Assistant Professor
- B.S., Oklahoma Panhandle State University; M.S., Oklahoma State University; Ph.D. Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Workplace Communications, Writing-intensive courses, Student Writing Skills
- holli.leggette@ag.tamu.edu, 979-458-3039

**Deborah Dunford,** Senior Lecturer
- B.S., Kansas State University; M.A., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: Agricultural Communication; Writing Instruction; Issues Management
- dunsford@tamu.edu, 979-458-3389

**Billy McKim,** Associate Professor
- B.S., University of Wyoming; M.S., University of Missouri; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: Agricultural Communication; Radio Broadcasting and Promotions; Research Design, Methods and Metric Development; Evaluation
- brmckim@tamu.edu, 979-845-0794

**Tobin Redwine,** Instructional Assistant Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas Tech University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: Agricultural Communication; Communication Strategies; Photojournalism
- tredwine@tamu.edu; 979-862-3005

**Tracy Rutherford,** Professor and Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs
- B.S., Cornell University; M.A., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Agricultural Communication; Technology Adoption; Visual Communication, New Media
- rutherford@tamu.edu, 979-458-2744
Technology-Enhanced Instruction Faculty

Kim Dooley, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Operations
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.Ed., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Technology-Enhanced Instruction; Technological Change; International Agricultural Development
- k-dooley@tamu.edu, 979-862-7620

Julie Harlin, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Oklahoma State University
- Professional interests: Teacher Education, Delivery Strategies; Learner-Centered Instructional Design, At-Risk Youth; Technology-Enhanced Instruction
- j-harlin@tamu.edu, 979-862-3014

Theresa Pesl Murphrey, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S. Texas A&M University; Ph.D. Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Technology-Enhanced Education; Learner-Centered Instructional Design; Online Learning; International Agricultural Development
- t-murphrey@tamu.edu, 979-458-2749

Robert Strong, Associate Professor
- B.S., Middle Tennessee State University; M.S., University of Tennessee; Ph.D., University of Florida
- Professional interests: Technology-Enhanced Instruction; Research Measurement and Analysis; Extension Education; Leadership Education; Climate Change; Nonformal Learner-Centered Instruction, International Agricultural Development
- r-strong@tamu.edu, 979-845-1139

Extension Education Faculty

Scott R. Cummings, Professor, Extension Specialist, and Associate Department Head for Extension
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.P.H., The University of Texas School of Public Health; Dr.P.H., The University of Texas School of Public Health
- Professional interests: Extension Education; Evaluation/Accountability; Program Development; Methods of Behavioral Change
- s-cummings@tamu.edu, 979-847-9388

Jeffrey Ripley, Associate Director – County Operations
- B.S., Tarleton State University; M.Ed., Southwest Texas State University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: Extension Education; Evaluation; Program Development; Strategic Planning
- j-ripley@tamu.edu, 979-845-7280

Philip Shackelford, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist
- B.S., Tarleton State University; M.S., Tarleton State University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: Extension Education, Competencies for Extension Agents, Program Development and Design, Connecting Agriculture, Food and Health
- p-shackelford@tamu.edu; 979-845-7280

International Agricultural Development

John “Jack” Elliot, Professor
- B.S., Washington State University, M.A., Washington State University, Ph.D., Ohio State University
- Professional Interests: International Agricultural Development; Agricultural Literacy; Human Capacity Development
- jelliot@tamu.edu, 979-845-6944

Manuel Pina, Instructional Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University, M.S., Texas A&M University, Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional Interests: International Agricultural Development; Extension Education; Grant Writing
- m-pina@tamu.edu, 979-862-1978

Gary Wingenbach, Professor
- B.S., Oregon State University; M.Ag., Oregon State University; M.A.T., Oregon State University; Ph.D., Iowa State University
- Professional interests: International Agricultural Development; Agricultural Communications; Online Learning Processes
- g-wingenbach@tamu.edu, 979-862-1507
Organizational and Community Leadership Faculty

**Barry L. Boyd**, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Leadership Education; Learner-Centered Instructional Design; Transformational Teaching
- b-boyd@tamu.edu, 979-862-3693

**Chanda Elbert**, Associate Professor
- B.S., Southern University AMC; M.S., University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University
- Professional interests: Leadership and Multicultural Environments; Women in Leadership; Evaluation and Accountability
- celbert@tamu.edu, 979-458-2699

**Lori Moore**, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., University of Florida
- Professional interests: Collegiate Leadership Programs; Delivery Strategies; Adult Education/Training, Teacher Education
- llmoore@tamu.edu, 979-845-1295

**Summer Odom**, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Collegiate Leadership Education; Workplace Leadership Skills; Delivery Strategies; Leadership Core Beliefs/Values
- summerodom@tamu.edu, 979-862-7650

**Jennifer Strong**, Associate Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.S., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Oklahoma State University
- Professional Interests: Leadership Development, Pedagogical Practices of Leadership Education, Ethics and Organizational Culture
- dr.jen@tamu.edu, 979-862-1423

Teacher Education Faculty

**Gary E. Briers**, Professor
- B.S., Texas A&M University; M.Ed., Texas A&M University; Ph.D., Iowa State University
- Professional interests: Teaching Methodology; Research Design/Methodology; Human-Animal Interactions; Technology-Enhanced Instruction; International Agricultural Development
- g-briers@tamu.edu, 979-862-3000

**OP McCubbins**, Assistant Professor
- B.S. Murray State University; M.S. Murray State University; Ph.D. Iowa State University
- Professional interests: Teacher Education; Technology-Enhanced Instruction; Immersive Technology; Augmented Reality; Virtual Reality
- 979-458-3391

**Tim Murphy**, Professor
- B.S., University of Missouri-Columbia; M.Ed., University of Missouri-Columbia; Ph.D., Texas A&M University
- Professional interests: Teacher Education; Youth Development; Technology-Enhanced Instruction; Research, Measurement and Analysis; STEM Integration
- tmurphy@tamu.edu, 979-862-3419

Our Invitation

Attending graduate school is a very important decision. Mentioned previously, we will host a Recruitment Symposium every fall for those individuals interested in applying to our programs. Prospective master’s applicants are welcome and encouraged to attend the symposium. Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials before the deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to attend the symposium and to participate in a campus faculty interview. After all, you will be making a considerable investment of time and money in pursuing a graduate program and we want you to be certain that you have made the right choice.

For more information about the department, its graduate programs, the graduate faculty, contact the graduate program coordinator, Clarice Fulton, or browse our web page at [http://alec.tamu.edu](http://alec.tamu.edu).
Graduate Program Administrative Office

Clarice Fulton  
Graduate Program Coordinator II  
Texas A&M University  
Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications  
600 John Kimbrough Blvd. Room 256  
College Station, TX 77843-2116  
Phone: (979) 862-7180  
FAX: (979) 862-7190  
Email: cfulton@tamu.edu  
http://alec.tamu.edu

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores and Percentile Scores
Detailed Information

Mentioned previously, for an applicant to be considered for review by the ALEC Graduate Admission Committee for admission to one of our programs, the following minimum criteria must be achieved and all other application materials submitted. Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee admission to a degree program.

- The minimum GPA for master’s applicants from last 60 hours of undergraduate work must be 3.0;
- The minimum GPA for doctoral applicants must be 3.5 obtained from Master’s program. If master’s degree not obtained, GPA of at least last 60 hours of undergraduate work will be calculated.
- A minimum GRE-Writing score of 3.0 must be obtained for master’s applicants, a minimum of 4.0 must be obtained for doctoral applicants. Official Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) scores taken within three (3) years.
- Statement of Purpose and Professional Goals statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ specialization areas.
- All applicants are highly encouraged to reach out and have conversations with faculty in the same research and interest area as their own. If no conversation has been made with faculty the applicant will not be reviewed by the graduate admissions committee.
- Must meet a minimum criterion score total calculated by using the individual percentile scores of the GRE and the GPA (master’s – use last 60 hours of undergraduate work; doctoral – use Masters GPA). The minimum criterion score for master’s is 350; minimum criterion score for doctorate is 400.
- Doctoral applicants must submit at least two writing samples to demonstrate writing proficiency.

To assist you to calculate your criterion score the percentile scale chart has been provided on the next page. Take the Quantitative score received and align with the third column to indicate your Quantitative percentile. Do the same for the Verbal and Writing sections. Calculate your GPA and multiply by 100. Add all the totals together to get the criterion score.

Highly Competitive Applicant Scores
If you took the GRE after August 1, 2011, your scores/percentile scores and GPA meet each category below and you have a declared Departmental Graduate Faculty interim major advisor, your application will be considered highly competitive.

Master’s applicants: GRE-Q 146 - 26%, GRE-V 148 - 36%, GRE-W 4.0 - 41%, and at least a GPA of 3.1.
Doctoral applicants: GRE-Q 146 - 26%, GRE-V 151 - 48%, GRE-W 4.0 - 41%, and at least a GPA of 3.7.

If the GRE was taken prior to August 1, 2011, are official in the TAMU system taken within the last five years, your scores and GPA meet each category below, and you have a declared Departmental Graduate Faculty interim major advisor, your application will be considered highly competitive.

Master’s applicants: GRE-V 410, GRE-Q 500, GRE-W 4.0, and at least a GPA of 3.1.
Doctoral applicants: GRE-V 450, GRE-Q 500, GRE-W 4.0, and at least a GPA of 3.7.

If you believe you may want a refresher of what the GRE test will entail, you may purchase a GRE guide book at Barnes and Nobles, titled: The ETS Official Guide to the GRE General Test. The price is generally around $40.00.
## GRE SCORES and PERCENTILE RANKS

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<th>PREV</th>
<th>NEW</th>
<th>QUANT %</th>
<th>NEW</th>
<th>VERBAL %</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>WRITING %</th>
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<td>165</td>
<td>95</td>
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</table>

### ALEC Criterion Score Calculation

\[
\text{(GRE-V \%ile + GRE-Q \%ile + GRE-W \%ile)} + (\text{last 60 hrs GPR} \times 100)
\]

**Master's Minimum to be considered:** 350

**Doctoral Minimum to be considered:** 400

### Old Test Minimums

#### Master's Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRE-Q</th>
<th>GRE-V</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Last 60 hrs. GPR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>410</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
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#### Doctoral Applicants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRE-Q</th>
<th>GRE-V</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Graduate GPR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### New Test - Highly Competitive Scores

#### Master's Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRE-Q</th>
<th>GRE-V</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Last 60 hrs. GPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Doctoral Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRE-Q</th>
<th>GRE-V</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Graduate GPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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