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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Doctoral Applicants</th>
<th>Master’s Applicants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2022</td>
<td>Fall 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1 of previous year</td>
<td>November 1 of previous year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2022</td>
<td>Fall 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1 of specified year</td>
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Doctoral and Master’s applicant review will take place twice within an academic year, once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Both deadlines will be for admission review for the subsequent year. If interested in seeking financial assistance, applicants are highly encouraged to submit application materials by the fall deadline dates.

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

Fall Recruitment Symposium

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 participate as part of the symposium. Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials by the posted fall deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to participate in the symposium to have a faculty interview. Spring applicants will be notified personally if an interview will be scheduled.

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 our degree programs.

The Fall 2021 Recruitment Symposium will be held virtually on November 1, 2021. Registration 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 TAMU GraduateCAS application portal. TAMU Application materials needed to complete the file for departmental review consist of the following items:

- Submit an application to the TAMU GraduateCAS Application Portal. Apply online at [https://texasam2022 liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login](https://texasam2022 liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login).
- Unofficial transcripts submitted from each higher education institution previously attended. If admitted, applicants will be required to submit official transcripts upon acceptance before approved to register for classes.
- International students – Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit proof of English proficiency. English proficiency can be demonstrated by one of the following criteria below (also see TAMU Admission requirements, [https://admissions.tamu.edu/international/graduate](https://admissions.tamu.edu/international/graduate)). Scores taken within the last two years must be submitted from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and sent electronically to Texas A&M University code 6003 (See Graduate and Professional School (GPS) for directions for waivers).
  - If GRE exam has been taken within last five years, a GRE Verbal Reasoning score of at least 146 or;
  - a minimum TOEFL score (from an exam test date within two years) of: 550 for paper-based testing or 80 internet-based testing or;
  - a minimum IELTS score (from an exam test date within two years) of 6.0 overall or;
  - a minimum PTE Academic score of 53
- The Texas State Legislature passed SB 1107, which requires 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](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.

**Additional 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 by the appropriate deadline. 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.
- Statement of Intent/Purpose and Professional Goals Statement – This statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ areas of specialization, why you wish to obtain the degree, and how the degree will assist you to obtain your career goals. Applicant interested in Master of Science degree program must clearly define in the statement whether wish to pursue thesis or non-thesis option.
- Testing – The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for admission.
  - **International Students** - Exam criteria stated previously. GRE is not required unless using Verbal exam score to verify English proficiency. GRE scores must be valid taken within the last five years. English proficiency exam scores must valid within the last two years. Scores must be sent electronically, select TAMU code 6003.
- Writing samples to demonstrate writing proficiency. The guidelines to complete the departmental writing component will be administered upon the submission of the TAMU application, therefore it is highly encouraged to plan ahead and submit the application prior to the official posted deadline.
➢ Master of Science and Master of Agriculture (non-thesis option) applicants must submit a one-page summary and sentence outline describing a workshop topic to be delivered to a specific audience.

➢ Master of Science (thesis option) applicants must submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years).

➢ Doctoral applicants must submit one’s own publication, submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years), and write a position paper on a topic related to your research interests.

- Current résumé or curriculum vitae.
- Letters of Recommendation
  - 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, staff, or student employee.
  - 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, staff, or student employee.
- Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials by the posted fall deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to attend the fall recruitment symposium to participate in a campus interview as part of the admission process. Doctoral applicants applying for the Spring deadline who may be considered for an interview will be notified personally about the interview process.
- All applicants are highly encourage applicants to reach out and have conversations with faculty in the same research and interest areas as their own. If no conversation has taken place 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.

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 the symposium.

Suggested Timeline for Admission Procedures

5 weeks before the deadline:
- Submit application and application fee through the TAMU GraduateCAS Application portal (on-line at https://texasam2022.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login. Applications will open August 1 of each year. It is important to NOT WAIT until the day before or the day of the posted deadline to submit your application. It is possible it may take at least a week to complete the submission of the application materials, therefore, you are encouraged to provide additional time for your materials to be received. The DEADLINES indicate a RECEIVE date for all materials, not to begin the submission of materials.
  - Pay Application Fee - $89.00 for U.S. citizens; $114.00 for International applicants
- Submit Unofficial Transcripts – Transcripts from each higher education institution attended are required. Unofficial transcripts must be uploaded in the TAMU GraduateCas application portal. Official transcripts are not required to be submitted until you are notified of admission. Official transcripts must be sent to the Office of Admission and Records prior to any registration.
- Statement of Intent/Purpose and Professional Career Goals – This statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ areas of specialization, why you wish to obtain the degree, and how the degree will assist you to obtain your career goals. Applicant interested in Master of Science degree program must clearly define in the statement whether wish to pursue thesis or non-thesis option. (This statement must be submitted as part of your application).
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
• Request Letters of Recommendation (Limit of one from the ALEC department)
  ➢ 3 for Master’s; 5 for Doctoral
    o All letters of recommendation are required to be submitted through TAMU GraduateCas Admission portal. Access and locate the area in the admission portal 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.

• Graduate Testing – The Graduate Record Exam is not required for admission.
  ➢ International Students - Exam criteria stated previously. English proficiency scores must be valid taken within the last two years and scores must be sent electronically, select TAMU code 6003.

4 weeks before deadline:
• Applicants are highly encouraged to reach out and have conversations with faculty in the same research and interest areas as their own. If no conversation has taken place 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.

At least 2 weeks before deadline:
• Complete the writing component of the application to demonstrate writing proficiency. The guidelines to complete the departmental writing component will be administered to applicant upon the submission of the TAMU GraduateCas application, therefore it is highly encouraged to plan ahead and submit the application prior to the official posted deadline.
  ➢ Master of Science and Master of Agriculture (non-thesis option) applicants must submit a one-page summary and one-page sentence outline describing a workshop topic to be delivered to a specific audience.
  ➢ Master of Science (thesis option) applicants must submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years).
  ➢ Doctoral applicants must submit one’s own publication, submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years), and write a position paper on a topic related to your research interests.

Access the TAMU GraduateCas application system often to review and check to make sure all application materials have been received or uploaded.

2 weeks prior to any registration/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.

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

Graduate Degree Information

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. In addition to the core courses, 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. In addition to the core courses, one hour of Seminar (ALEC 681) is required. 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. In addition to the core courses, 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 the four core courses, three hours of Seminar (ALEC 681), 12 hours of dissertation research and a comprehensive research sequence of 18 hours of research methods. Coursework in the supporting fields may be in any academic area that contributes to a student’s career objective.

Core Curriculum Content Exam
In addition to the program requirements described above, each program requires the completion of four core curriculum courses to gain content knowledge and skills: Principles of Adult Education (ALEC 610); Philosophy of Agricultural Education (ALEC 615); Methods of Technological Change (ALEC 640); and Frontiers in Research (ALEC 695). A core curriculum content exam is administered after the completion of all courses to determine eligibility to continue in the program.

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, 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 Graduate and Professional School (GPS) 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 GPS, which needs to indicate requesting waiver because of full-time employment and place of employment.

If you are interested in receiving more information about the ALEC admission process and review, please contact the ALEC program coordinator directly, Clarice Fulton, clarice.fulton@ag.tamu.edu. Upon admission to the department, more specific program requirements (Graduate School document submissions, exam scheduling, etc.) are provided during the departmental orientation.

Departmental Graduate Faculty

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications at Texas A&M University is widely recognized 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. Mentioned previously, all applicants interested in beginning graduate studies are encouraged to participate in the Prospective Graduate Student Recruitment Symposium to learn more about faculty research and interest and graduate student opportunities.

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. It is also suggested to refer to the department web page at http://alec.tamu.edu for detailed information about our graduate faculty. Please note, faculty may have interests and expertise that cross several different discipline areas which are identified by the professional interests listed for each.

Agricultural Communications-Agricultural Journalism Faculty

Holli Leggette Archer, Associate 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 Dunsford, 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

Technology-Enhanced Instruction Faculty

Kim Dooley, Professor
- 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 and Associate Head for Graduate Programs
- B.S., Middle Tennessee State University; M.S., University of Tennessee; Ph.D., University of Florida
- Professional interests: Digital Learning; Research Measurement and Analysis; Extension Education; Nonformal Learner-Centered Instruction, Leadership Education, 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
- jelliott@tamu.edu, 979-845-6944

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 and Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs
- 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
- lmoore@tamu.edu, 979-845-1295
Financing Your Education

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

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. The application submitted to TAMU for admission review is not the application for a departmental assistantship. Applications for assistantships can be found at [http://alec.tamu.edu/student-opportunities/assistantships/](http://alec.tamu.edu/student-opportunities/assistantships/). A letter of interest specifically detailing your qualifications is required to accompany the assistantship application. You may apply for more than one assistantship position. Assistantship applications are typically submitted by the deadline for fall review, however, applications may be submitted at any time and for any other admission deadline as positions may become available. If offered a position, specific assignments are made based upon the needs of the Department and the experience of the students. Both the assistantship application and the letter of interest must be submitted directly to the departmental program coordinator, Clarice Fulton, clarice.fulton@ag.tamu.edu.

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 identified below, however an application is not for a specific scholarship. Most of the scholarships are available for current students. Incoming new students are eligible in their second year. 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.

- **Mary Nell and Frederick P. Cherry ’41 Memorial Scholarship:** Awarded to current students. One or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.
• **Country Radio Broadcaster’s Inc. Scholarship:** May be awarded to current students in focusing in AGCJ. One or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree.

• **R.B. Dooley ’39 Endowed Scholarship:** Awarded to new admit students. One or more full-time out-of-state masters or doctoral students pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.

• **M.E. Graves ’50 Quasi Endowed Scholarship:** May be awarded to current students. One or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.

• **Dr. Thomas R. Hargrove ’66 Endowed Memorial Scholarship:** May be awarded to current students in focusing in AGCJ. One or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree.

• **Myrna and John Hendrick ’57 Graduate Scholarship:** Awarded to current students. One or more full-time master’s students in good academic standing pursuing a Master’s degree program in ALEC.

• **COADC Dr. Craig A. Rotter Scholarship:** May be awarded to current students. One or more full-time masters or doctoral students in good academic standing pursuing a graduate degree in ALEC.

• **Frank Sheppard Graduate Scholarship:** Awarded to current students. 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:** May be awarded to current students. Highly competitive scholarship in which the recipient is an ALEC graduate student engaged in agricultural leadership, education, and communications.

**Texas A&M 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 eligible for admission and review and nomination is administered by the ALEC Associate Head for Graduate Programs. 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. Preference for these fellowships will be given to Ph.D. students or Master of Science (thesis option) students who have declared a career objective to pursue a Ph.D. Deadlines occur early January, therefore, to be eligible for these opportunities all application materials must be submitted by the fall deadlines of previous year for the following academic year.

**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.

**Dr. Dionel Aviles ’53 and Dr. James Johnson ’67 Fellowship Program (previously Graduate Diversity Fellowship)**

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 $15,000 stipend per year for two years for master’s students and a $20,000 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. Recipients are determined by GPS. Amounts are based on the current admission cycle as amounts are subject to change.
If you are interested in receiving more information about assistantships, scholarships or fellowships, or applying for any of these, please contact the departmental program coordinator directly, Clarice Fulton, clarice.fulton@ag.tamu.edu.

Other Financial Assistance Information
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:** Student Financial Aid Office (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 (FAFSA), 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.
- **Part-time employment within TAMU System:** TAMU Department of Human Resources at 979-845-5154.
- **Housing information:** Housing Office at 979-845-4744 (on-campus), 979-845-1741 (off-campus).

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 for the following academic year. 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 our degree programs.

Prospective master’s applicants are welcome and encouraged to participate in the symposium. Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials by the posted fall deadline (September 1) and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to participate in the symposium and to have a departmental interview. Spring doctoral applicants will be notified personally if an interview will be scheduled.

Graduate Admissions Contact
Clarice Fulton
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: clarice.fulton@ag.tamu.edu
http://alec.tamu.edu

For more information about the department, the graduate programs, and the admission process, contact the departmental program coordinator or browse our web page at http://alec.tamu.edu.
ALEC Admission Requirements Detailed Information

After submission of the TAMU GraduateCAS application, application fee, unofficial transcripts, and English proficiency scores for international students (if applicable), 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. Final decisions are determined by a graduate admission committee.

- 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.
- Statement of Purpose/Professional Goals statement – This statement must detail well-defined, focused academic and/or research objectives consistent with the Departments’ areas of specialization, why you wish to obtain the degree, and how the degree will assist you to obtain your career goals. Applicant interested in Master of Science degree program must clearly define in the statement whether wish to pursue thesis or non-thesis option.
- 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 taken place 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 more detailed information about our graduate faculty as well as the details mentioned previously.
- Letters of Recommendation (Limit of one from the ALEC department faculty, staff, or student employee)
  - 3 for Master’s; 5 for Doctoral - We require all letters of recommendation to be submitted through TAMU Admission Portal. Access and locate the area 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.
- Writing samples to demonstrate writing proficiency. The guidelines to complete the departmental writing component will be administered upon the submission of the TAMU application, therefore it is highly encouraged to plan ahead and submit the application prior to the official posted deadline.
  - Master of Science and Master of Agriculture (non-thesis option) applicants must submit a one-page summary and one-page sentence outline describing a workshop topic to be delivered to a specific audience.
  - Master of Science (thesis option) applicants must submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years)
  - Doctoral applicants must one’s own publication, submit one “critique” of an ALEC faculty member’s recent refereed publication (journal article must be within the past five years), and write a position paper on a topic related to your research interests.
- Doctoral applicants who have submitted all admissions materials by the posted fall deadline and meet the minimum admission requirements will be considered for an invitation to participate in fall recruitment symposium and participate in an interview as part of the admission process. Doctoral applicants applying for the Spring deadline which may be considered for an interview will be notified personally about the interview process.
- International Students - Exam criteria stated previously. English proficiency scores must be valid taken within the last two years and scores must be sent electronically, select TAMU code 6003.