Agriculture in today's world is a business. The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics addresses important issues regarding management of agricultural and related businesses, functioning of agricultural markets, protection and use of natural resources and development of government policies affecting agricultural and related industries. The department offers an undergraduate degree and a minor in agricultural business management and a biological sciences business management concentration within the agricultural business management degree. Concentrations in natural resources economics and management and in environmental sciences economic policy are also offered under two university-wide degree programs.

Career Opportunities
Graduates find career opportunities in a wide variety of employment environments such as: marketing, agribusiness management, brokerage and merchandising, production agriculture, agricultural finance, and biological business. Each year graduates enter employment in marketing and sales, stocks, commodities, and real estate, purchasing, production, retail, and management.

Research
The department conducts major research programs on agricultural commodities important in North Carolina; on the use of natural, human and financial resources in agricultural and related industries; on the structure and development of agricultural and agribusiness sectors; and on international trade and economic development. Research emphasis pertinent to agriculture include:

- issues in farm management and production economics
- the effects of agricultural, trade and resource policies
- the impact of general economic events on the agricultural and resource sectors
- management and policy issues related to natural resources and the environment
- the efficiency of various agricultural and resource market systems.

Course Work/Curriculum
There are three major components:

- general requirements of the university and the college
- core business and economics courses required by the department
- a block of technical agriculture, business and economics electives.

This curriculum prepares students for management careers in agricultural, resource and related industries.

Graduate Study
The Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Ph.D. in Economics are research-oriented degrees. Students pursuing these degrees learn to apply economics and related disciplines to agricultural and resource production, marketing, finance and policy issues relevant to state, national and international economies.

A campus-wide Master of Science in Management degree is available to agricultural students seeking post-graduate training in business management.

Co-Curricular Activities
The Agribusiness/NAMA Club provides opportunities for students to interact with the faculty, visit agricultural and related businesses throughout the state and learn about industry prospects and career opportunities from industry leaders. Students participating in this organization explore promotion and marketing with leaders in advertising, media and agribusiness.

Career Services
In addition to faculty advisers, CALS Career Services is available to provide information about career and employment opportunities. The office assists students and alumni with a variety of career needs such as choosing a major, resume tips, and job search strategies.