



## NEW MAJORS PROPOSAL

March 18, 2019 (Rev. October 25, 2019)

The Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics (AAEC) requests approval to create four new majors, by elevating three of our existing concentrations (options) to major status: Environmental Economics Management & Policy (EEMP), International Trade & Development (ITD), and Community Economic Development (CED), and an entirely new major in Food & Health Systems Economics (FHSE).

Our current degree structure consists of two degrees: AGRIBUSINESS (AGRB) and APPLIED ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT (AEM). Underneath our AEM degree, we have a single major (AEM) with three concentrations/options: EEMP, ITD, CED.

Our *proposed* degree structure consists of the same two degrees (AGRB & AEM), with four new majors underneath the AEM degree: FHSE, EEMP, ITD, CED.

### Rationale

Few high school graduates come to VT (or any university) with knowledge of “Agricultural Economics - AGECON” as a field of study and professional career. Hence, we attract most of our undergraduate majors via our introductory service courses to CALS and CLE/PATHWAYS.

However, even that process is confusing to enrolled VT students because our curricular programs concentrations/options are buried underneath our AEM degree/major, i.e., EEMP, ITD and CED are not listed on VT’s academic majors website, nor is the term Applied Economic Management (AEM) very meaningful to students exploring majors. Thus, we wish to elevate EEMP, ITD and CED to major status to more accurately reflect program content and facilitate recruitment.

Secondly, we want to create a timely new major focused on Food & Health Systems Economics (FHSE). We are excited about this new major for it will educate and prepare students for careers in both dimensions (production and distribution) of healthy food supply and demand systems, uniquely linking the two parameters essential to a safe and sustainable diet for consumers.

In the past 15-20 years, interest in the health implications of the food system has significantly increased. There is emerging demand for graduates capable of evaluating policies and practices that promote healthier systems of food production, distribution, processing, and preparation. With its cluster hire of three senior faculty in health economics, AAEC is uniquely positioned among U.S. Land Grant Colleges to address holistic linkages across food systems and health outcomes. AAEC is committed to providing coursework and experiential learning, fitting the

VT shaped curriculum, that give students an in-depth understanding of the linkages among systems of food production and health outcomes.

Though our current students consider themselves as majoring in EEMP, ITD or CED, this information is stated only on their transcript. Should our request be approved, our graduates will be able to accurately claim that they majored in their area of concentration and have it confirmed on their diplomas.

Future students internal and external to VT will be more readily able to identify and understand what majors are available in AAEC at VT. With enhanced visibility, we also anticipate more VT students will see and take our courses for minors and as electives.

Under separate documentation, we are submitting our Revised Checksheets for each new major.

### **Students Serviced**

AAEC currently educates 200+ undergraduate majors and 49 minors.

### **Resource Needs**

No new resources are necessary to implement these changes. Please find attached letters of support from all VT departments whose courses our students take. No comments or concerns were received via 15-Day Review.

### **Teach-out Plan**

For discontinued options:

- How many students are enrolled in the options: ITD = 36, EEMP = 28, CED = 12.
- Approximate graduation term for those in the options: Spring 2023. Last term to graduate Fall 2023.
- What is the last term to enroll for the options: Spring 2020 for current students; Fall 2019 or Spring 2020 for new students.
- How will the students get through, if they don't want to change to the major? Other than PATHWAYS courses, the required courses on the current versus new Checksheets are identical; plus, we will make substitutions as needed on a student-by-student basis.

For new majors:

- When is the first term to declare the new majors: Summer 2020.
- When is the first graduation term for the new majors: Winter 2022.

### **Administration**

These major changes would be effective for all students graduating in 2022 and for those currently enrolled freshmen in the Class of 2022 who wish to convert their Checksheets and adjust their curricula accordingly (<20%).

If approved, we will:

- Post the information on our departmental website;
- Request Registrar authorization and ;
- Notify all current students via email;
- Educate CALS and VT Advisors formally and informally.

Matt Holt, AAEC Department Head

Mike Ellerbrock, AAEC Undergraduate Director



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
APPLIED ECONOMICS  
VIRGINIA TECH.

Agricultural & Applied  
Economics  
250 Drillfield Drive  
Hutcheson Hall, Suite 208  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
P: (540) 231-6301 F: (540)  
231-7417

Dr. Susan Sumner, Associate Dean  
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences  
1060 Litton Reaves, VT  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

March 26, 2019

Dear Dr. Sumner:

Please find attached documentation of our request in AAEC to create four new majors, by elevating three of our existing concentrations (options) to major status: Environmental Economics Management & Policy (EEMP), International Trade & Development (ITD), and Community Economic Development (CED). We are also submitting a fourth proposal to create a new major in Food & Health Systems Economics (FHSE).

Our current degree structure consists of two degrees: AGRIBUSINESS (AGRB) and APPLIED ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT (AEM). Underneath our AEM degree, we have a single major (AEM) with three concentrations/options: EEMP, ITD, CED.

Our *proposed* degree structure consists of the same two degrees (AGRB & AEM), with four new majors underneath the AEM degree: FHSE, EEMP, ITD, CED.

### **Rationale**

Few high school graduates come to VT (or any university) with knowledge of "Agricultural Economics - AGECON" as a field of study and professional career. Hence, we attract most of our undergraduate majors via our introductory service courses to CALS and CLE/PATHWAYS.

However, even that process is confusing to enrolled VT students because our curricular programs concentrations/options are buried underneath our AEM degree/major, i.e., EEMP, ITD and CED are not listed on VT's academic majors website, nor is the term Applied Economic Management (AEM) very meaningful to students exploring majors. Therefore, we wish to elevate EEMP, ITD and CED to major status to more accurately reflect program content and facilitate recruitment.

Secondly, we also wish to create a timely new major focused on Food & Health Systems Economics (FHSE). We are excited about this new major for it will educate and prepare students for careers in both dimensions (production and distribution) of healthy food supply and demand systems, uniquely linking the two parameters essential to a safe and sustainable diet for consumers.

Though our current students consider themselves as majoring in EEMP, ITD or CED, this information is stated only on their transcript. Should our request be approved, our graduates will

be able to accurately claim that they majored in their area of concentration and have it confirmed on their diplomas.

Future students internal and external to VT will be more readily able to identify and understand what majors are available in AAEC at VT. With enhanced visibility, we also anticipate more VT students will see and take our courses for minors and as electives.

Under separate documentation, we are submitting our proposal and justification for each new major.

### Students Serviced

AAEC currently educates 200+ undergraduate majors and 49 minors.

### Resource Needs

No new resources are necessary to implement these changes (pay raises accepted!). Please find attached letters of support from all VT departments whose courses our students take.

### Teach-out Plan

For discontinued options:

- How many students are enrolled in the options: ITD = 36, EEMP = 28, CED = 12.
- Approximate graduation term for those in the options: Spring 2023. *(Last term to graduate FALL 2023)*
- What is the last term to enroll for the options: Spring 2020 for current students; Fall 2019 or Spring 2020 for new students.
- How will the students get through, if they don't want to change to the major? Other than PATHWAYS courses, the required courses on the current versus new Checksheets are identical; plus, we will make substitutions as needed on a student-by-student basis.

For new majors:

- When is the first term to declare the new majors: *Summer 10-25-19/Amt* Fall 2020.
- When is the first graduation term for the new majors: *Winter 10-25-19/Amt* Spring 2022.

### Administration

These major changes would be effective for all students graduating in 2022 and for those currently enrolled freshmen in the Class of 2022 who wish to convert their Checksheets and adjust their curricula accordingly (<20%).

If approved, we will:

- Post the information on our departmental website;
- Request Registrar authorization and ;
- Notify all current students via email;
- Educate CALS and VT Advisors formally and informally.

Sincerely,



Matthew Holt, PhD  
Professor & Department Head



Mike Ellerbrock, PhD  
Professor & Undergraduate Director

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University**  
**College of Agriculture & Life Sciences**  
**Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management**  
**Food and Health Systems Economics Major (FHSE)**

**For Students Graduating in Calendar Year 2022 and Date of Entry under UG Catalog 2020-2021**

**Part I. UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENT PATHWAYS\***

\* The total number of credit hours will vary depending upon whether Pathways courses are used to meet specific requirements in Part II. Some Pathways courses may also fulfill departmental requirements, but the credit hours may not be counted twice.

**Pathways Concepts (45 hours):**

Concept 1 – Discourse – Foundational	ENGL 1105-1106	3____, 3____
Discourse – Advanced	COMM 2004	3____
Concept 2 – Critical Thinking in the Humanities	Any Concept 2 Courses	3____, 3____
Concept 3 – Reasoning in the Social Sciences	AAEC 1005, 1006 <sup>1</sup>	3____, 3____
Concept 4 – Reasoning in the Natural Sciences	Any Concept 4 Lecture Courses	3____, 3____
Concept 5 – Quantitative & Computational Thinking-Foundational	MATH 1025-1026 <sup>2</sup>	3____, 3____
Quantitative & Computational Thinking-Advanced	*STAT 3615 <sup>3</sup>	3____
Concept 6 – Critique & Practice in Design and the Arts-Design	Any Concept 6 Design Course	3____
Critique & Practice in Design and the Arts-Arts	Any Concept 6 Arts Course	3____
Concept 7 – Critical Analysis of Identity & Equity in the US	Any Concept 7 Course	3____

**Part II. FOOD AND HEALTH SYSTEMS ECONOMICS MAJOR (FHSE)**

**A. Degree Core Courses (19 credit hours)**

*AAEC 2434	Foundations of Agribusiness	3____
*AAEC 3004	Agricultural Production and Consumption Economics	3____
*AAEC 3024	Monetary and Global Issues in Applied Economics	3____
*AAEC 3014 <sup>4</sup>	Analytical Methods in Applied Economics	3____
AAEC 3015	AAEC Internship	1____
ACIS 2115	Principles of Accounting	3____
*ENGL 3774 <sup>5</sup>	Business Writing	3____

**B. Major Core Courses (35 hours):**

* APSC 1454	Introduction to Animal and Poultry Sciences	3____
*AAEC 3504	Marketing Agricultural Products	3____
*AAEC 4504	Agricultural Price and Market Analysis	3____
*AAEC 4814	Food and Health Economics	3____
*CSES 3444 (HORT 3444)	World Crops and Systems	3____
*ECON 4214	Economics of Health Care	3____
*FIN 3104 <sup>6</sup>	Introduction to Finance	3____
FST 2014	Introduction to Food Science	2____
HNFE 1004	Foods, Nutrition and Exercise	3____
PHS 2004	Introduction to Public Health	3____

*Choose one from:*

APSC 3134 (DASC 3134)	Animal Agriculture and the Environment	3____
CSES 2244	Agriculture, Global Food Security, and Health	
*FST 2244	Topics in Food Science and Technology (3 credit course offering)	
HNFE 2544 (FST 2544)	Functional Foods for Health	
PHS 3014	Introduction to Environmental Health	

*Choose one from:*

AAEC 2424	Cooperatives and Their Impact on Human Condition	3____
AAEC 3314	Environmental Law	
AAEC 3604	Agricultural Law	
*AAEC 3454 (MGT 3454)	Small Business and Entrepreneurship	
ACIS 1504	Introduction to Business Analytics & Business Intelligence	

**C. Capstone Course -- 3 hours total**

*Choose one from:*

*AAEC 4404	Agricultural Management and Problem Solving	3____
*AAEC 4414	Applied Economic Problem Solving	
*PHS 4054	Concepts in One Health	

### Part III. AREA OF SPECIALIZATION AND FREE ELECTIVES

**A. Area of Specialization (18 hours)** – AAEC advisor must approve area of specialization courses and the student must file an *area of specialization* form with the AAEC undergraduate office. Students should consider minors or double majors. At least 9 hours must be at the 3000 level or higher (unless noted otherwise for a minor in another academic department).

Course		Course	
_____	3 _____	_____	3 _____
_____	3 _____	_____	3 _____
_____	3 _____	_____	3 _____

#### NOTES:

**\*Pre-requisites:** Some courses required for this major have pre-/co-requisites and/or enrollment requirements. Please refer to the Undergraduate Course Catalog or consult your advisor for information about pre-/co-requisites and enrollment requirements.

**Program Total Hours:** 120 credit hours required for graduation with this degree.

**Foreign Language Requirement:** Students who do not successfully complete at least two units of a single foreign language, classical language or American Sign Language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single college level foreign or classical language at the college level. Such semester hours are in addition to those normally required for graduation. Please see the Undergraduate Catalog for details.

**GPA:** In major calculation is from all AAEC and ECON classes taken. An overall GPA of at least 2.0 is required to meet the University's minimum standard for good academic standing. Overall and in-major GPA's of at least 2.00 are required for graduation.

**Satisfactory progress:** By the end of the academic year in which the student has attempted 72 hours (including transfer, advanced placement, advanced standing and credit by examination), "satisfactory progress" will consist of 1) an overall GPA of at least 2.0; 2) at least 30 credits that apply to the Pathways to General Education, and 3) 9 semester credits of departmental requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Or take ECON 2005-2006: Principles of Economics

<sup>2</sup> Or take MATH 1225-1226: Calculus of a Single Variable. Students considering graduate school in applied economics are encouraged to take MATH 1225-1226.

<sup>3</sup> Or STAT 3005

<sup>4</sup> Or BIT 2406, or STAT 3006, or STAT 3616

<sup>5</sup> Or take ENGL 3764: Technical Writing; or ENGL 3754: Advanced Composition.

<sup>6</sup> Or ACIS 2116: Principles of Accounting.



VirginiaTech

College of Science

Department of Economics

3016 Pamplin Hall (0316)

880 West Campus Drive

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

February 21, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Economics supports the inclusion of **ECON 4214 (Economics of Healthcare)** in the checksheet for the proposed Food & Health Systems Economics major. The Department will also allow AAEC 3004 (Agricultural Production and Consumption) to serve as a prerequisite for ECON 4214 in lieu of ECON 2005. Inclusion of ECON 4214 will not require additional resources from either the College of Science or the Department of Economics.

Sincerely,

Sudipta Sarangi  
Professor and Department Head

*Invent the Future*



PHS  
2004, 3014, 4054

**White, Katie**

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**From:** Hungerford, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Davis, George; Redican, Kerry  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear George, Mike and Katie,

Thank you for the follow-up discussions.

You expect to have 5-12 students per year in our courses (PHS 2004, 3014 and 4054) from the new major and PHS 4054 will serve as one alternative for the capstone course in the major. We do not anticipate that additional resources will be needed, beyond increased engagement between faculty members from our colleges as they work with the students from your college to integrate courses concepts. Students should also be able to combine this new major with a double major or minor in public health to give even more emphasis to the translational population health and economic sustainability areas of the program. Your major will also give students excellent preparation for the MPH.

We look forward to working with you and your students in this endeavor,

Laura

Laura L. Hungerford, DVM, MPH, PhD, CPH  
Professor and Head  
Department of Population Health Sciences  
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine  
205 Duck Pond Drive, Room 398  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
e: [lhungerf@vt.edu](mailto:lhungerf@vt.edu)  
p: (540) 231-3532

**From:** Davis, George  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 3:01 PM  
**To:** Hungerford, Laura <[lhungerf@vt.edu](mailto:lhungerf@vt.edu)>; Redican, Kerry <[kredican@vt.edu](mailto:kredican@vt.edu)>  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>; White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

Dear Laura and Kerry:

In AAEC, we are submitting a proposal for a new major in *Food & Health Systems Economics*. The purpose of this major is to train our students to look at the economics of food **and** health through the lens of an integrated system. As such, we feel it is important that our students have exposure to your course(s):

- PHS 2004
- PHS 3014
- PHS 4504



**White, Katie**

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**From:** Tamim, Nada  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2019 2:55 PM  
**To:** Davis, George; Gerrard, David  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi George,  
We would be ok with adding APSC 1454, however the Fall will be restricted to the APSC majors and your students can take it in the spring.

APSC 3134 is cross listed with DASC and Katherine Knowlton teaches the course, so you will need to check with DASC.

Nada

**From:** Davis, George <georgedavis@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** Tamim, Nada <ntamim@vt.edu>; Gerrard, David <dgerrard@vt.edu>  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike <mebroek@vt.edu>; White, Katie <katiwhite@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

Dear Nada and Davis:

In AAEC, we are submitting a proposal for a new major in *Food & Health Systems Economics*. The purpose of this major is to train our students to look at the economics of food *and* health through the lens of an integrated system. As such, we feel it is important that our students have exposure to your course(s):

- APSC 1454
- APSC 3134

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions; otherwise, email us back to confirm your support by February 22<sup>nd</sup> if possible.

Thank You!

George Davis, Mike Ellerbrock, & Katie White

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George C. Davis  
Professor  
Dept. Ag. & Applied Economics

**White, Katie**

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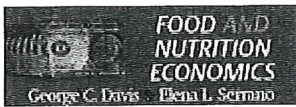
**From:** Davis, George  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie  
**Subject:** FW: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

HNFE 1004 approved (see below). I have to contact FST for the other one.

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George C. Davis  
Professor  
Dept. Ag. & Applied Economics  
Dept. Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise  
Fellow Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Virginia Tech  
(540) 231-6783  
[My Website](#)



Oxford University Press (2016), Amazon

*Winner Ag. & Appl. Econ. Assoc. Quality of Communication Award 2017*

"...Seek and Ye Shall Find." Matthew 7:7

**From:** Hulver, Matthew <hulvermw@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 11:20 AM  
**To:** Davis, George <georgedavis@vt.edu>; Eaton, Renee <rselberg@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Sounds good to me. I approve. Take care. Matt

Sending from iPhone.

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**From:** Davis, George <georgedavis@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 11:16 AM  
**To:** Eaton, Renee; Hulver, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Thanks Renee. I look forward to hearing from Matt.

**White, Katie**

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**From:** Benjamin F. Tracy <bftracy@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 16, 2019 11:00 AM  
**To:** Davis, George  
**Cc:** Evans, Michael; Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie  
**Subject:** Re: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

2244  
Hello George - we confirm and support the inclusion of CSES 2444 and 3444 in your new major-Food and Health Systems Economics.

Regards,  
Ben

Benjamin F. Tracy, PhD  
Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs  
School of Plant and Environmental Sciences - Virginia Tech  
185 Ag. Quad Lane (MC 0404)  
Blacksburg, Va 24061  
Email: [bftracy@vt.edu](mailto:bftracy@vt.edu)  
Office Ph: 540.231.8259

On Fri, Feb 15, 2019 at 2:52 PM Davis, George <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)> wrote:

Dear Ben and Michael:

In AAEC, we are submitting a proposal for a new major in *Food & Health Systems Economics*. The purpose of this major is to train our students to look at the economics of food *and* health through the lens of an integrated system. As such, we feel it is important that our students have exposure to your course(s):

- CSES 2244
- CSES 3444

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions; otherwise, email us back to confirm your support by February 22<sup>nd</sup> if possible.

**White, Katie**

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**From:** Maher, John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 3:40 PM  
**To:** Davis, George  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie; Neece, Phyllis  
**Subject:** RE: New Food and Health Systems Economics Major ACIS 1504 course approval request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello George, February 27, 2019  
I support your students taking ACIS 1504 and no new resources will be needed. I cannot predict which semester your students will be able to take ACIS 1504 (i.e. Fall or Spring), but I support them taking the course. Good luck with your new majors.  
Jack Maher

John J. (Jack) Maher  
Department Head  
Carroll Endowed Professor  
Dept. of Accounting and Information Systems  
Pamplin College of Business, Suite 3007, Virginia Tech  
880 West Campus Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA

**From:** Davis, George <georgedavis@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 3:28 PM  
**To:** Maher, John <jmaher@vt.edu>  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike <mebrook@vt.edu>; White, Katie <katiwhite@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: New Food and Health Systems Economics Major ACIS 1504 course approval request

Dear John,

I am following up on the request below related to ACIS 1504.

I realize this may have been confusing as Mike Ellerbrock also was asking for approval for ACIS 2115 which you graciously granted.

Hello Mike, February 14, 2019  
I support your students taking ACIS 2115 and no new resources will be needed. I cannot predict which semester your students will be able to take ACIS 2115 (i.e. Fall or Spring), but I support them taking the course. Good luck with your new majors.  
Jack Maher

John J. (Jack) Maher  
Department Head  
Carroll Endowed Professor



**White, Katie**

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**From:** Benjamin Corl <bcorl@vt.edu> *DASC Interim Dept. Head*  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** Davis, George  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie  
**Subject:** Re: Course Approval for Food and Health Systems Economics Major

Hello George,

I'm supportive of your new major.

Regards,  
Ben

On Wed, Feb 27, 2019 at 3:17 PM Davis, George <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)> wrote:

Dear Kathy and Benj:

In AAEC, we are submitting a proposal for a new major in *Food & Health Systems Economics*. The purpose of this major is to train our students to look at the economics of food *and* health through the lens of an integrated system. As such, we feel it is important that our students have exposure to your course(s):

- **APSC 3134**

We realize this course is cross listed with APSC and thus Nada Tamim has asked that we also check with you.

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions; otherwise, email us back to confirm your support by March 1, if possible.

Thank You!

George Davis, Mike Ellerbrock, & Katie White

**White, Katie**

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**From:** Marcy, Joseph  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 1:58 PM  
**To:** Davis, George  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike; White, Katie; Granata, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request  
**Attachments:** image001.png

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

George,

I approve of including these FST classes in you check sheet for Food and Health Systems Economics. Good luck with this new major!

Joe

Joseph Marcy  
Professor and Department Head  
Food Science and Technology Department  
360 Duck Pond Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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**From:** George Davis <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)>  
**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 3:10 PM  
**To:** Joseph Marcy <[jmarcy@vt.edu](mailto:jmarcy@vt.edu)>  
**Cc:** Mike Ellerbrock <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>, "White, Katie" <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>, Linda Granata <[lgranata@vt.edu](mailto:lgranata@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics course approval request

Hi Joe,

I am following up on an e-mail (see below) I sent a few weeks ago regarding our new major, *Food and Health Systems Economics*. We view some knowledge of food processing and technology as a critical element in this curriculum.

As indicated, we would like to have our students approved to take

- FST 2014
- FST 2244
- FST 2544 not on checksheet

In our check sheet, FST 2014 would be required but then FST 2244 and FST 2544 would be in a list of restrictive electives.

I met with Linda today and she clarified some things related to our request in terms of topic coverage, especially FST 2244. While I doubt many students would chose this course, we'd like to give the student the opportunity if they wanted to go deeper and get some certification in a FST area. This seems this could be especially beneficial for someone interviewing for a job in the retail/food service industry.

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.



## White, Katie

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**From:** Joe Eska <eska@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:36 PM  
**To:** White, Katie  
**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike  
**Subject:** Re: Letters of Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Mike & Katie,

?

We can handle an additional 5-10 students per term, so it's fine with English for you to list the course for your new major in Food & Health Systems Economics.

ENGL

Thanks,

Joe

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 1:21 PM White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)> wrote:

Hi Joe –

We only anticipate 5-10 students right now.

Thanks,

*Katie White*

Academic and Student Support Advisor

Agricultural and Applied Economics

309 Hutcheson Hall

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Email: [katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)

Phone: 540-231-6846

Schedule An Advising Appointment [HERE](#)

*"Ut Prosim" – That I May Serve*



Mathematics Department  
225 Stanger Street  
460 McBryde Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Ph: (540) 231-6536  
Fax: (540) 231-5960

February 26, 2019

Mike Ellerbrock, PhD  
Professor and Undergrad Director  
AAEC Dept, VT  
218 Hutcheson Hall (0401)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Mike:

The Department of Mathematics supports the continued inclusion of

**MATH 1025-1026: Elementary Calculus**

as requirements in your three current options that you propose to elevate to majors

- *International Trade & Development,*
- *Environmental Economics Management & Policy,*
- *Community/Rural Economic Development.*

In addition, we support the inclusion of MATH 1025-1026 in the new major

- *Food & Health Systems Economics.*

We accept your analysis that we will require no new resources to teach these courses.  
We will, of course, monitor enrollments to see that this is the case

Best regards,

Robert C. Rogers  
Professor and Associate Chair

## White, Katie

---

**From:** Ellerbrock, Mike  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 11:59 AM  
**To:** White, Katie  
**Subject:** FW: Letters of Support

**From:** Easterwood, John <jceast@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 11:55 AM  
**To:** Ellerbrock, Mike <mebroock@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Letters of Support

Mike, we are happy to have your students continue to take FIN 3104. Please note that our prerequisites for that course are ACIS 2115, BIT 2405 (or STAT 3005/06), and ECON 2005.  
John

**From:** Ellerbrock, Mike <mebroock@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** Easterwood, John <jceast@vt.edu>  
**Cc:** Keown, Art <emily@vt.edu>; Holt, Matthew <mattholt@vt.edu>; Davis, George <georgedavis@vt.edu>; White, Katie <katiwhite@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** Letters of Support

Dear John:

In AAEC, we are seeking Governance approval to elevate our three current undergraduate Options to Majors.

- *International Trade & Development (ITD),*
- *Environmental Economics Management & Policy (EEMP),*
- *Community/Rural Economic Development (C/RED).*

We need your support for allowing our students to continue taking:

FIN 3104.

In addition to elevating these three Options to Major status, we are also submitting a proposal for a fourth Major:

- Food & Health Systems Economics.

Therefore, we also need your support to allow our students into:

FIN 3104.

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions; otherwise, email us back to confirm your support by February 22<sup>nd</sup> if possible.

February 15, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Statistics is happy to support the required and optional courses necessary to support the new Food & Health Systems Economics majors. These are International Trade & Development (ITD), Environmental Economics Management & Policy (EEMP), Community/Rural Economic Development (C/RED), and Food & Health Systems Economics (FHSE).

These new majors will require students to continue taking Biological Statistics (STAT 3615). In addition, students in the C/RED major may take Methods of Regression Analysis (STAT 4214) and/or Sample Survey Methods (STAT 4524) as electives. ~~not on checkStat~~

We anticipate that the Statistics Department can continue providing these courses with no additional resources. If enrollment numbers are beyond expectations, or if the combined effects of other courses push the limits of our capacity, the level of resources required will have to be revisited.

Sincerely,



David Higdon  
Professor and Interim Head

**White, Katie**

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**From:** Ellerbrock, Mike  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 11:05 AM  
**To:** White, Katie  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Letters of Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good!

**From:** Douglas Cannon <dfcannon@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 9:28 AM  
**To:** Ellerbrock, Mike <mebroock@vt.edu>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Letters of Support

The Department of Communication supports the inclusion of COMM 2004: Public Speaking on Agriculture and Applied Economics checksheets for four proposed majors:

- Community/Rural Economic Development.
- Environmental Economics Management & Policy.
- Food & Health Systems Economics.
- International Trade & Development.

Teaching students from these four proposed majors will not require additional department resources.

Douglas F. Cannon, Ph.D., APR+M, Fellow PRSA  
Assistant Head, Department of Communication  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Denton, Robert <rdenton@vt.edu>  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 14, 2019 at 3:24 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Letters of Support  
**To:** Cannon, Douglas <dfcannon@vt.edu>

This should have gone to you...

Thanks,

Bob

VTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVTVT

## Ellerbrock, Mike

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**From:** Joe Eska <eska@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:03 AM  
**To:** Ellerbrock, Mike  
**Cc:** White, Katie  
**Subject:** Re: Letters of Support

Hello Mike & Katie,

English is glad to allow your students to take any of ENGL 1105, ENGL 1106, and ENGL 3774.

Best wishes,

Joe

On Wed, Mar 27, 2019 at 10:55 AM Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)> wrote:

Hi Joe,

We have been instructed to ask you to identify below the exact courses that you will allow our FHSE students to take, specifically:

ENGL 1105, 1106, 3774

Please respond that this is OK.

Thanks a lot!!

Mike & Katie

**From:** Joe Eska <[eska@vt.edu](mailto:eska@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:36 PM  
**To:** White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>



## Ellerbrock, Mike

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**From:** Joe Eska <eska@vt.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:03 AM  
**To:** Ellerbrock, Mike  
**Cc:** White, Katie  
**Subject:** Re: Letters of Support

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Best wishes,

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ENGL 1105, 1106, 3774

Please respond that this is OK.

Thanks a lot!!

Mike & Katie

**From:** Joe Eska <[eska@vt.edu](mailto:eska@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:36 PM  
**To:** White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>

## Taylor, Anna

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**To:** White, Katie  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

**From:** Hulver, Matthew <[hulvermw@vt.edu](mailto:hulvermw@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:50 AM  
**To:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>; Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Mike, I support these courses being added as described. Thank you. Matt

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**From:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:45 AM  
**To:** Hulver, Matthew  
**Subject:** FW: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Hi Matt,

Can you please respond to Mike Ellerbrock regarding support for these courses to be added as described? The curriculum committee vote was unanimous to support.

Thank you,

Renee

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**From:** Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10:59 AM  
**To:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>  
**Cc:** White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Hi Renee,

We have been instructed to ask you to identify below the exact courses that you will allow our FHSE students to take, specifically:

HNFE 2544

Please respond that this is OK. As you asked, we have reached out to FST and they also approve.

Thanks a lot!!

Mike & Katie

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**From:** Davis, George <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 9:19 AM  
**To:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>

**Cc:** Hulver, Matthew <[hulvermw@vt.edu](mailto:hulvermw@vt.edu)>; Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>; White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Hey Renee,

Good question.

I am going to give a rather long response to this that will hopefully provide some useful contextual and background info, so be patient☺

First, our best estimate at this point is about 6-12 students in a cohort (e.g., in the freshman class or soph class, etc.). HNFE 1004 would be required for all students in the major. Regarding 2544, that will be an optional course (one choice from 5. See attached checksheet), so we would not expect all to take that course and perhaps none. I have talked with FST about other courses, but not this one. I will do so.

Here is some background on why we are doing this that may be useful to share in your curriculum committee meeting.

As a discipline, economics is simply the study of objectives, incentives, and constraints in decision-making and how these three elements will affect outcomes.

In agricultural economics, these issues have traditionally been studied within the limited context of what we call the food supply chain. That is, all the firms, institutions, and markets that exist from the farm level up to the consumer. From tractor makers to grain elevators to food manufacturers to food wholesalers to food retailers. However, the more common laymen name now for this complex is the food system.

Over the past 15-20 years, the interest in the health implications of the food system has increased dramatically. Some examples would be Mad Cow Disease, E. coli outbreaks, GMOs, antibiotics in animal production, implications of food labeling for food retailers, etc. Furthermore, there has become an increasing interest in farm policy and health outcomes. For example, some claim that commodity support programs for farmers that subsidizes corn production is a major cause of the obesity crisis. Moreover, in my own area, there is an increased interest in the physical health status of those who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (e.g., food security, obesity, diet quality), which is run by the U.S. Dept. of Ag.

Thus there has become an increasing interest in the link between the food system and health outcomes, via diet, or simply and more generally between the food system and the health system.

We have come to believe in our department that in order to better train our students for the work place where questions about the links between these systems become more important, it is imperative that our students know something about each of the major links in this supply chain. It is difficult to apply economic concepts accurately to a given application if one does not know much about the context of decision-making. The major links in the supply chain we have identified are

- Crop Production
- Animal Production

- Food Processing
- Nutrition and Diet
- Health

So as you can see, these four areas cover the key links in the food system and how it relates to the health system. Our Food and Health Systems Economics major would then cover the economics of animal and crop production, food production and processing, nutrition and diet, and health as an integrated system. The emphasis would be on how the links in this system are connected through economic incentives and principles and how competing but also complementary economic objectives lead to the outcomes found in the system. So for someone interested in issues at the intersection food and health, we feel it is very important that they know a little about each of the technical links in this supply chain in order to understand how apply economic concepts they learn in our other courses and how to do a more comprehensive economic analysis. Thus, this is why we would love to be able to include your course as we see it is a vital link in the food and health system.

Sorry for the length, but hope this help.

Any questions, let me know.

George C. Davis

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**From:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 6:32 AM

**To:** Davis, George <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)>

**Cc:** Hulver, Matthew <[hulvermw@vt.edu](mailto:hulvermw@vt.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Hi George,

I'll bring this to our next curriculum committee meeting which is March 7. Are you listing HNFE 1004 and 2544 as required courses or elective?

HNFE 2544 is cross-listed with FST and they teach and control the course. That course fills very quickly so I think there would need to be a discussion about that. Please let me know if you've already talked with FST.

Many thanks,

Renee

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**From:** Davis, George <[georgedavis@vt.edu](mailto:georgedavis@vt.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 2:39 PM

**To:** Eaton, Renee <[rselberg@vt.edu](mailto:rselberg@vt.edu)>; Hulver, Matthew <[hulvermw@vt.edu](mailto:hulvermw@vt.edu)>

**Cc:** Ellerbrock, Mike <[mebrock@vt.edu](mailto:mebrock@vt.edu)>; White, Katie <[katiwhite@vt.edu](mailto:katiwhite@vt.edu)>

**Subject:** New Major in Food and Health Systems Economics Course Approval Request

Dear Renee and Matt:

In AAEC, we are submitting a proposal for a new major in *Food & Health Systems Economics*. The purpose of this major is to train our students to look at the economics of food **and** health through an integrative systems perspective. As such, we feel it is important that our students have exposure to your course(s):

- HNFE 1004
- HNFE 2544

FYI – we do not anticipate any new resources will be needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions; otherwise, email us back to confirm your support by February 22<sup>nd</sup> if possible.

Thank You!

George Davis, Mike Ellerbrock, & Katie White

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George C. Davis

Professor

Dept. Ag. & Applied Economics

Dept. Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise

Fellow Center for Transformative Research on Health Behaviors

Faculty of Health Sciences

Virginia Tech