

**Agricultural Systems Technology Master of Science Degree**  
*Secondary and Post-secondary Agricultural Education Emphasis*  
*Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Extension Emphasis*  
 Plan C Final Paper Requirement

**Rationale:**

All students in the Education track of the Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Systems Technology who have selected the Plan C option are required to complete a scholarly paper as part of the degree requirements. Since the degree is a Master of Science, students should demonstrate competency in research.

**Overall Goal:**

Students will write a scholarly paper (see specifications below) that is suitable for publication in a “popular” press periodical in her/his field of study synthesizing the literature on a topic and providing recommendations for other educators based on their findings.

**Potential Publication Outlets:**

<b>Ag Ed</b>	<b>FACS</b>	<b>CES</b>	<b>All</b>
<i>The Agricultural Education Magazine</i>	<i>Techniques</i>	<i>The Religious Educator</i>	<i>Psychology</i>
<i>Techniques</i>		<i>The Ensign</i>	<i>Education</i>
			<i>The Clearing House</i>
			<i>Theory into Practice</i>

**Procedures:**

1. Students selecting the Plan C option are required to include one credit hour of *ASTE 6250 – Special Problems* or *FCSE 6250 – Special Topics* during the final semester of their program. This course must be included on the program of studies.
2. Students should consult with their major professor (committee chair) a minimum of two semesters prior to completion for topic approval and to determine specific publication options, format, style, etc.
3. A rough draft of the paper must be submitted to the committee chair during the semester prior to the student’s final semester.
4. Students should submit an electronic copy of the paper, via e-mail, to her/his graduate committee no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the final semester of the program. Committee members will review the paper, make suggestions and editing comments and return it back to the student by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.
5. The student will incorporate suggestions and comments into the paper in consultation with the major professor.
6. The student will submit a final copy of the paper to the entire committee by the first day of finals week for the semester.

**Style:**

The style of the paper should follow APA (5<sup>th</sup> edition) guidelines.

**Format:**

The length of the paper will vary by publication, but should include the following major sections (Please consult with the committee chair):

- I. Introduction – provide sufficient explanation of the topic chosen including a rationale for selecting the topic. Use the literature to build the rationale. The introduction may also include some form of interest approach if desired.
- II. Review of literature – most papers for this type of publication should include somewhere between 10 and 20 references, but again, this may vary by topic or selected periodical, but at the very least, you **MUST** include a synthesis of the related literature. Cite all sources using APA guidelines or those used by the periodical (if the periodical does not use APA style for citations, please include a copy of an article from the periodical for each committee member).
- III. Recommendations – based on the literature, present your recommendations for practice. Provide suggestions to other practitioners for implementation of your strategy, methodology, etc.
- IV. Conclusion – provide a summary of the paper.
- V. List of references – this list should match those listed in your review of literature and should follow APA guidelines with exceptions as mentioned in II.