The purpose of this research study was to examine whether the Master of Science in Agronomy Distance Education Program at Iowa State University has had an impact on students’ career mobility and economic status. Distance education lifelong learning opportunities for agricultural professionals, like a majority of other field professional are growing exponentially. The research on the impact that the M.S. in Agronomy Program has had on students’ career mobility and economic status has yet to be identified as one of the main distance education research area. The Distance Education Impact Assessment Survey (DEIAS) was designed to assess the impact the distance education program has had on students’ career mobility and economic status. The DEIAS was administered during the 2004 fall semester, and again during the 2008 spring semester to program Graduates and Current Students.

The results of this research study identified several areas of study that have had an impact on students’ career mobility and economic status. Additional knowledge and training for adult students is essential for career advancement. This research project will demonstrate how a degree program offered only via distance education through Iowa State University has impacted students’ career mobility and economic status.