Department of Plant Science
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MS in Plant Science, M.S.
MN in Plant Science, Minor
BS in Plant Science - Plant Health Option, B.S.
BS in Plant Science - Crop Production Mgt Option, B.S.

Courses Offered

The Department of Plant Science at California State University, Fresno is located in the nation's most productive agricultural valley. Our graduates acquire a sound academic background that is deeply rooted in field-based experience in the broad array of disciplines within Plant Science. These include pomology, olericulture, agronomy, environmental horticulture, soils, irrigation, economic entomology, plant pathology, weed science, and mechanized agriculture. Our faculty hold advanced degrees in these disciplines, and regularly integrate this knowledge directly in the field and laboratories. The university's 1000 acre agricultural field laboratory, greenhouse facilities, and the Jordan Agricultural Research Center are home to cutting-edge horticultural and agronomic practices, using the latest innovations in crop production, mechanization, irrigation, soil fertility, propagation, and pest management.

Completion of a degree in Plant Science at California State University, Fresno is your gateway to a career in agriculture. Our program is also designed to provide the academic background for certification/licensing as an Irrigation Specialist, Certified Irrigation Designer, Certified Arborist, California Certified Nursery Professional, Certified Crop Adviser (CCA), Certified Professional Agronomist, Certified Entomologist, CA Department of Pesticide Regulation Certification (Agricultural Pest Control Advisor and Qualified Applicator), Certified Horticulturist, or for advanced studies in Plant Sciences. Our graduates are sought after by many of the world's leading agricultural industries and agencies and many have entered leading graduate (MS, Ph.D.) programs worldwide.

Requirements

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements
Plant Science Major

Crop Production Management Option

Recommended curriculum for students interested in a foundation of agronomic, vegetable, tree fruit/nut, or ornamental horticulture crop production combined with a foundation in agricultural business; recommended curriculum for students interested in combining foundations in agricultural equipment, crop production, and agricultural business.

1. Major requirements (45 units)
   PLANT 99, 100; SW 2, 100, 100L
   - Choose one from MEAG 3 or 20
   - Choose two from PLTH 103, 105, 106
   - Choose 2 units from PLANT 180, 190, 194, 196, or VIT 196

After consultation with your advisor, choose courses below that best serve your career objectives. Courses from above cannot be double-counted below. 15 units must be from no more than two prefixes. Select 21 units (minimum 15 upper-division units) from CRSC, HORT, MEAG, OH, PLTH, SW, VIT; PLANT 107, 108, 134, 150.

Additional requirements (34-36 units)
   CHEM 3A, BIOL 11, AGBS 1 (or ECON 40), DS 71 (or MATH 75)
• Select one course from CHEM 3B, CHEM 8, PHYS 2A
• Select 18 units (15 upper-division) from the following:** AGBS 28, 31, 100, 110, 117, 120, 130, 150, 160, 163, 164

2. General Education requirements (49 units)

3. Other requirements (6 units)
Upper-division writing and Multicultural and International (MI)

4. Sufficient elective units to meet required total units (varies)

5. Total units (120)*

* G.E. and MI courses can be double-counted with major requirements. The writing requirement may be met by taking the upper-division writing exam. This total assumes that CHEM 3A, BIOL 11, AGBS 1 (or ECON 40), and DS 71 (or MATH 75) are being used to satisfy 13 units of the G.E. requirement. See advisor for details.

**Additional prerequisites may be required for some upper-division AGBS courses.

Advising Notes

1. Students will be assisted in selecting an appropriate faculty advisor and be given the curriculum checksheet(s) from which to select a catalog year.
2. Meet with your academic advisor prior to registration each semester.
3. General Education courses designated as required by the department are prerequisites to many courses in the program of study. The General Education requirement of 49 units may be exceeded depending upon your selection of courses.
4. CR/NC grading is not permitted for courses included in the major unless the course has been designated CR/NC grading only (PLANT 194).
5. Grading policy: all prerequisites for courses listed under the major and additional requirements require a grade of C or better.
6. Upper-division G. E. courses (i.e., 100-level courses) should not be attempted prior to the semester in which 60 lower-division units toward the degree have been completed.
7. The upper-division writing skills requirement can be met by passing the university Upper-Division Writing Examination (UDWE) or by passing an approved upper-division writing skills course. One unit of credit (i.e., ENGL 100W) may be earned for passing the exam; 3 units of credit is earned by obtaining a letter grade of C or higher in an approved course, i.e., PLANT 110W. In either case, the requirement will have been met.
8. One semester prior to graduation, con-tact your academic advisor to prepare and file any necessary course substitutions with the Degree Advising Office.
9. Students interested in becoming Certified Professional Agronomists, Crop Scientists/Specialists or Soil Scientists/ Specialists should consult with their department faculty advisor for additional requirements for certification.

FACULTY

The faculty members hold advanced degrees in their fields of specialization from leading agricultural institutions and universities in the United States. They are well-qualified teachers who, through extensive research and interaction with major agricultural industries, bring a wealth of basic and practical information into the classroom. A faculty academic adviser is assigned to work with each student to plan and design an individualized program of study to meet the student’s educational and career objectives.

Many of the faculty members are involved in one or more of the Centers of the California Agricultural Technology Institute (Center for Irrigation Technology and the Viticulture and Enology Research Center) and the San Joaquin Experimental Range. These centers offer excellent opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students to participate in applied research projects that address and help solve problems faced by California’s agricultural industry.

For faculty phone numbers and e-mail, see the campus directory.

For more on the faculty, see the faculty pages.
The faculty pages are updated by the department or program.