Agriculture

Overview
Agriculture involves everything from science to business, communications to education, and biotechnology to food science. As new technologies and job opportunities emerge, agriculture will continue to change. Agriculture students study science, mathematics, computer science, economics, accounting, finance, marketing, social science and communications, in addition to agriculture. Whatever your interests, talents and goals, there is a place for you in agriculture.

Professional options
Careers
Opportunities exist in business and industry, communications, conservation, education, international agriculture, research, production and services. Agriculture students also compete for jobs outside the traditional agriculture industry. Demand for agriculture graduates is expected to remain strong.

One in five people in the United States is employed in an agriculture-related job, but a shortage in the number of university graduates with agriculture expertise continues to exist.

Academics
Selecting a major in agriculture is an important decision. Advisors will help identify the program that is most compatible with your career goals and interests, and you can combine course work from several majors.

Degree options
If you are undecided about a major, enter the exploratory general agricultural program until you select a specific major. You will select courses that are applicable to any major and programs.

Points of pride
Kansas State University’s College of Agriculture offers 16 undergraduate majors, 14 minors and five certificate programs. Students can choose to participate in 38 College of Agriculture organizations and 21 competition teams.

Agribusiness
The study of agribusiness includes an understanding of management, marketing and finance applications, as well as the relationship of agribusiness to the world economy.

Our graduates are in high demand in numerous fields throughout the marketplace, including farm inputs manufacturing, food processing, marketing, government and other public service organizations.

Agricultural communications and journalism
This major combines communications and technical agricultural or environmental studies to prepare graduates for the rewarding field of communications. Specialties include public relations, writing, editing, planning and broadcasting using a wide array of traditional and electronic media.

Graduates work for public relations and advertising firms, newspapers, magazines, trade associations, and radio and television stations.

Agricultural economics
Agricultural economics is the study of economic factors affecting agriculture and food, including farm management, consumer demand, marketing, agricultural finance, price analysis, commodity futures marketing, natural resource economics and agricultural policy.

Employment opportunities exist in agribusiness, government, farming, ranching or feedlot management. The choice between agribusiness and agricultural economics is usually based on the student’s interests. Both offer similar opportunities.

Agricultural education
A consistently high demand exists for quality graduates to teach agricultural education as well as work in extension, agricultural sales and management and agricultural finance.

Students take a variety of agricultural courses, allowing emphasis on an area of interest. Studies include animal sciences, horticulture, agribusiness, agronomy, agricultural mechanics and education.

Agricultural technology management
This program prepares students for careers in technical management positions in food and agricultural industries. Course topics include natural resources and environmental management, power and machinery systems, electrical systems and electronics, and agricultural building systems.

Graduates work for state and federal government agencies, tractor and machinery manufacturers and dealerships, food and feed processing companies, consulting firms and in the fields of agribusiness, farming, ranching or feedlot management.

Agronomy
Soil, water, plant, environmental, genetic, range and weed sciences help sustain the world’s food supply, protect the environment, and conserve vital soil and water resources.

Courses cover science, communication, social science and humanities in conjunction with options in business and industry, range management, consulting and production, plant science and biotechnology, and soil and environmental science.

Animal sciences and industry
Courses give instruction in selection, reproduction, breeding, feeding, management, welfare and marketing of cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, goats, companion animals and swine, as well as the processing of animal products.

Options in animal products, business, communications, and marketing production/management and science/pre-veterinary give broad opportunities for employment.

Bakery science and management
Students learn about the commercial baking industry and related areas. Courses include baking and cereal science, milling, flour and dough testing, and a solid foundation in chemistry, math and microbiology. Students can concentrate on production management or cereal chemistry.

Feed science and management
Graduates are equipped to be well-paid supervisors/managers in animal feed, biofuels or pet food production facilities and related industries. Options include feed production and pet feed production.

Course work includes science, technology and management. Demand exceeds the availability of graduates. Pre-vet professional requirements can be completed pursuing the feed production option.
Food science and industry
This major blends basic sciences with theory and practice of the development, manufacturing, evaluation, marketing and safety of food products. This curriculum, which has science, technology and business management options, is compatible with course requirements of students in pre-veterinary medicine and other preprofessional programs such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing. Excellent job opportunities exist in many sectors of the food industry.

Horticulture
Horticulture graduates apply the science and art of growing plants to sustainable food production, ornamental use or environmental improvement. Students can choose from four specialty options, including horticulture production, landscape horticulture, golf course and sports turf operations management, and horticulture science.

Milling science and management
Processing grain into flour and other milled products is one of the world’s oldest continuing industries. Students study the complete operation of grain milling and processing operations from receiving to packaging.

Students gain a solid background of scientific knowledge of the cereal grain processing industries and grain products. Specialties include operations and chemistry.

Park management and conservation
The management of natural resources for leisure requires professionals to delicately balance the life-enriching outdoor experiences of recreation users with adequate protection of some of our nation’s most exquisite lands and waters.

The curriculum combines studies of the natural sciences with communications, management and social sciences to direct the understanding of the social, political and biological factors that impact the use and protection of recreation lands and waters. Graduates serve the profession as park rangers, planners, researchers, recreation specialists, and unit and agency directors.

Wildlife and outdoor enterprise management
This program incorporates selected business, hospitality management, natural resources, and wildlife and fisheries management courses with outdoor skills courses. This program prepares students for careers as professional managers of hunting preserves, fishing resorts, outdoor experience companies and other outdoor-related businesses.

Pre-veterinary medicine (three-year program)
Successful completion of the pre-veterinary medicine program qualifies students to apply for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine. A strong background in chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology is recommended.

Natural resource and environmental sciences (secondary major)
Natural resource and environmental science is a universitywide secondary major that adds a timely and important academic emphasis. It prepares students to integrate broad-based scientific principles to the use, management, sustainability, and quality of soil, air, water, mineral, biological and energy resources.

Minors
You can also pursue a minor in the College of Agriculture. Departmental academic minors include agribusiness, agricultural economics, agricultural technology management, agronomy, animal sciences and industry, entomology, horticulture, bakery science and management, feed science and management, cereal chemistry and plant pathology. The college also offers a minor in international agriculture.

Advising
The College of Agriculture strives to meet your personal interests and career goals. You will have a faculty member as an academic advisor to assist you in academic and career counseling.

Transferring
The College of Agriculture works closely with many colleges in evaluating and transferring credits. More than 40 percent of our students are transfer students, and 60 percent of new freshmen have college credits. You will fit in quickly and be on your way to a successful career.

Future transfer students are encouraged to maintain contact with K-State faculty.

Check the K-State transfer page to determine if courses will substitute for a K-State course at k-state.edu/admissions/transfer. Find requirements for each college major at ag.k-state.edu/departments-and-programs.html.

Activities
Leadership, communication and interpersonal skills are essential for today’s graduate. K-State offers many opportunities to become involved on campus through departmental clubs, service organizations, student government and much more.

Each activity contributes to greater personal and professional development. Hands-on experience is encouraged through internships, work programs, special projects and international travel.

Financial assistance
The College of Agriculture awards more than $1 million in scholarships every year. For first-year students, the college scholarship award includes the amount given by the department.

You will receive the same amount of scholarships regardless of the major you choose. For current students, awards are given both at the college and department level. The College of Agriculture also rewards returning students for their efforts in the classroom. Any student who maintains a 3.5 K-State GPA receives scholarship dollars for the upcoming school year.

To apply for College of Agriculture scholarships, simply choose a major within the College of Agriculture when applying for admission and complete the university scholarship application.

You can contact the admissions office at any time to change your major. For incoming students, the college will accept the scholarship application until June 1.

For more information about agriculture, contact:
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