

PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES

Graduate Programs

Programs of coursework and research are offered leading to a Master of Science degree in Plant and Soil sciences, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Crop Science, or a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Soil Science. Specific program focuses are available in the areas of plant breeding and molecular biology, biotechnology, bioenergy, environmental remediation, forage, and pasture management, weed science, crop physiology, crop management, conservation cropping systems, soil morphology and genesis, soil microbiology, soil fertility and plant nutrition, soil physics, soil-water management, soil chemistry, soil and water quality, and waste management. Applicants should indicate their specific area of interest upon application. Plant and soil sciences faculty also serve on advisory committees for the Environmental Science interdisciplinary degree programs.

The graduate programs in plant and soil sciences prepare individuals for successful careers in a variety of areas including research, teaching, environmental sciences, waste management, farming and ranching, extension education, agricultural business, and all aspects of crop production.

Prerequisites

Admission to the graduate program requires a BS degree in plant and soil sciences, agronomy, or a closely related field. Applicants should have completed basic courses in plant and soil sciences, agronomy, biology, chemistry, and mathematics required of undergraduate majors. Deficiencies in fundamental course requirements will be met by the student under the direction of the student's advisory committee. Applicants must be accepted by an adviser in an appropriate discipline prior to official admission.

Degree Requirements

Students must follow approved plans of study that meet the minimum University and program requirements for the respective degrees they are pursuing.

The plans of study for graduate programs are developed individually for each candidate and must adhere to guidelines in the Plant and Soil Sciences graduate student handbook and be approved by the student's advisory committee. The graduate degrees in plant and soil sciences requires a minimum of 30 credit hours beyond the BS degree for a Master of Science degree or 78 credit hours beyond the BS degree for a Doctor of Philosophy degree. These include six credit hours of PLNT/SOIL 5000 Master's Thesis or 15 credit hours of PLNT/SOIL 6000 Doctoral dissertation. All students must meet certain requirements in basic disciplines such as statistics, mathematics, botany, and chemistry. The study of a foreign language is not required but can be incorporated if the student and advisory committee feel that it is desirable.