Graduate Programs

Programs of coursework and research are offered leading to the Master of Science degree in plant and soil sciences. A Doctor of Philosophy degree can be attained in Crop Science or Soil Science. Specific programs 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 degree plans of study for graduate programs in Plant and Soil Sciences 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 Master of Science degree in plant and soil sciences requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work beyond the BS degree, including six credit hours of PLNT or SOIL 5000 Master’s Thesis. The department offers Doctor of Philosophy degrees in crop science and soil science. Doctoral programs in crop science and soil science require 60 credit hours beyond the MS degree, including a minimum of 15 credit hours of PLNT or SOIL 6000 Doctoral Thesis. All students must meet certain requirements in basic disciplines such as statistics, mathematics, botany and chemistry. Study of a foreign language is not required but can be incorporated if the student and advisory committee feel that it is desirable.