



School of Agriculture

The School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville has programs designed to enable graduates to be successful in their chosen career path. The school is particularly proud of the achievements of its alumni who have attained leadership positions in agriculture throughout Wisconsin, the United States and dozens of countries in the world. The demand for professionally prepared agriculturalists exceeds the supply of people willing to commit their careers to this challenge.

UW-Platteville is located in America's agricultural heartland and provides a quiet, rural environment for scholastic achievement and student life. Since 1914, UWP's School of Agriculture has developed a tradition of excellence in directing graduates into challenging careers in the many disciplines that make up the agricultural sector of our society.

The school has two major objectives:

- 1) to provide students with general education in the biological, physical and social sciences and to introduce them to the arts and humanities; and
- 2) to provide a relevant and challenging technical education that will enable students to enter and advance in the professional agricultural career of their choice.

Programs

Students in the School of Agriculture may choose from among six possible majors:

- Agribusiness
- Agricultural Education
- Animal Science
- Ornamental Horticulture
- Reclamation, Environment, and Conservation
- Soil and Crop Science

Students interested in veterinary medicine may enroll in the pre-veterinary program. The school also provides minors for most of the majors listed above. There is a non-teaching agribusiness emphasis in agriculture education. An engineering technology emphasis in the agribusiness major provides an opportunity for students with career interest in agricultural mechanics.

Facilities

Classroom instruction within agriculture requires experimentation, observation and practical application of scientific information. Students majoring in agriculture use campus laboratories and a 430-acre laboratory and demonstration farm for their course work. All students have the opportunity to observe and apply approved management practices in animal science, feed processing and storage, farm power and machinery, fertilizer use, crops, and soil and water conservation practices. Through other laboratories students learn of modern applications of biotechnology, computer science and engineering technology. A state-of-the-art greenhouse complex and surrounding flower gardens and tree plantings provide practical experiences for ornamental horticulture students.

The university farm's livestock program includes herds of dairy cattle, beef cattle and swine. Experimental plots of Midwest cereal and forage crops, weed control and other agronomic practices are planned and implemented by students as part of their course work. A global positioning system for precision farming is being used for field crops. An orchard, small fruit plantings and flower beds serve as demonstration areas for classroom use. Agricultural field machinery and farmstead equipment are available for observation, test and analysis.

The UWP farm is also proud to serve as the flagship site for the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (WASI). In doing so, the farm acts as an ideal location for teaching, demonstrating, and communicating information learned from research. This research is aimed at developing approaches to production agriculture that result in environmentally compatible and economically sustainable farms.

High School Preparation

High school students planning to enter the UW-Platteville School of Agriculture should work closely with their counselors to assure that proper units are taken for admission to the university. The School of Agriculture recognizes a farm background is helpful but not essential. Urban residents are strongly encouraged to major in agriculture and can successfully complete degree requirements in the School of Agriculture.

The Agricultural Internship Program

The summer agricultural internship involves a supervised program of applied agricultural business practices in such areas as plant and animal breeding, soil conservation, farm machinery and equipment, food processing and canning, farm supply and service, agricultural credit, agricultural engineering, marketing, business management, federal crop insurance, statistical reporting services, plant and animal nutrition and farm management. The program provides agricultural majors and potential employees an opportunity to become acquainted with a particular career through work experience, while earning college credit and a salary.

The internship generally encompasses a period of 12 weeks during which students become involved in the various aspects of their chosen fields. The internship is usually completed during the summer between the junior and senior years, but arrangements may be made to intern earlier. There are also intern opportunities during the fall and spring semesters. At the completion of the program, the interns have a better understanding of an industry or agency in the career path they have selected.

Campus Organizations

Students enrolled in the School of Agriculture are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, music, art, drama and a vast array of social events. In addition, there are several organizations serving the special interests of the Ag student on campus. The following organizations are active within the School of Agriculture:

- Agri-Ambassadors—students chosen to represent and promote the School of Agriculture at various events.
- Agribusiness Club—sponsors field trips and speakers from all areas of agribusiness.
- Agricultural Mechanization Club—a campus organization for those students interested in agri-engineering technology and mechanization.
- Agriculture Student Council—the student government of the School of Agriculture.
- Agronomy and Soil Conservation Club—the campus organization for the soil and crop science majors and for those with an interest in soil and water conservation.

- Alpha Gamma Rho—a national social/professional fraternity for agricultural majors.
- Alpha Zeta—the national honorary fraternity for agricultural majors.
- Block and Bridle Club—sponsors various events for students interested in livestock production.
- CERES—a national social/professional fraternity for women interested in agriculture.
- FarmHouse—a national social/professional fraternity for students interested in agriculture.
- Horticulture Club—provides field trips and speakers with an interest in horticulture.
- National Agriculture Marketing Association—Pioneer chapter of State and National Agriculture Marketing Association.
- National Collegiate FFA—a national organization that serves local FFA chapters.
- Pioneer Dairy Club—provides leadership training for future dairy scientists.
- Pre-Vet Club—students interested in veterinary medicine are eligible for membership.
- Reclamation Club—sponsors speakers and field trips for students with an interest in reclamation.
- Sigma Alpha—a national social/professional sorority

There are many very successful judging teams that compete in national contests. The soil judging teams have won more national championships than any other university in the nation. Additional judging teams participate in dairy, meats, meat animal, crops, weeds, horticulture and marketing.

For More Information

Visit <http://www.uwplatt.edu/soa>.

For more information write to the Office of the Director, School of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818-3099, or call 608.342.1393.

For general information on the university and its programs, contact the UWP Prospective Student Services, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville, WI 53818-3099, or call toll-free 1.877.897.5288 or locally 608.342.1068.

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