Agriculture and Society

College of Agriculture— Agriculture & Society

This undergraduate degree emphasizes the application of social science knowledge to issues related to agriculture and society. The interdisciplinary major draws largely on courses from sociology, political science and economics. Its goal is to prepare students to become leaders in addressing complex issues related to the social and human dimensions of agriculture at both the local and global level. Students will learn social science concepts and skills to understand, analyze and communicate complex ideas, information and data related to agricultural systems.

Internships are an important part of the Agriculture & Society major. The curriculum offers the flexibility needed to accommodate the special interests and needs of each student.

The curriculum is designed to provide students with the following skills and competencies:
1. Recognize, analyze and evaluate the critical human and social factors (e.g. practices, policies, laws, institutions) impacting agriculture.
2. Understand the social dimensions of agriculture and its connections with food and environmental systems.
3. Develop problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership skills to positively influence human impacts on agriculture.
4. Understand the perspectives of diverse stakeholders and develop strategies to communicate clearly and effectively to a range of audiences.

Students will develop the necessary skills to become effective leaders with companies, local, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government agencies that work on agricultural, food and environmental related issues. Graduates can work as public policy analysts, government relations, public relations, program analyst, program specialists, marketing, sales, agriculture, educators, and executive directors.

Curriculum in Agriculture & Society

Administered by the Department of Sociology

Total Degree Requirement: 128 cr.
Only 65 cr. from a two-year institution may apply which may include up to 16 technical cr.; 9 P-NP cr. of free electives; 2.00 minimum GPA.

International Perspective: 3 cr.
U.S. Diversity: 3 cr.
Communications Proficiency (C or better):
6 credits of English Composition
Three credits of Speech Fundamentals

Communication/Library:
ENGL 150 Critical Thinking and Communication 3
ENGL 250 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition 3
SP CM 212 Fundamentals of Public Speaking 3
PR 305 Publicity Methods 3
LIB 160 Information Literacy 1

Humanities and Social Sciences: 6 cr.
3 credits from approved humanities list 3
3 credits from approved social science list

Ethics: 3 cr.
3 cr. from approved list.

Life Sciences: 6 cr.
BIOL 101 Introductory Biology 3
or BIOL 211 Principles of Biology I
Three credits from approved life sciences list 3
Total Credits 6

Mathematical and Physical Sciences: 12 cr.
MATH 150 Discrete Mathematics for Business and Social Sciences 3
or MATH 140 College Algebra
STAT 101 Principles of Statistics 4
or STAT 104 Introduction to Statistics
Five credit hours from:
MTEOR 206 Introduction to Weather and Climate
AGRON 206 Introduction to Weather and Climate
or ASTRO, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS
Total Credits 12

Sociology 15 cr.
SOC 110 Orientation to Public Service and Administration in Agriculture R
SOC 230 Rural Society in Transition 3
SOC 325 Transition in Agriculture 3
SOC 382 Environmental Sociology 3
SOC 415 Dynamics of Social Change 3
Sociology elective 300 level or above 3
Total Credits 15

Economics and Agricultural Education and Studies: 16 cr.
ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics 3
ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics 3
ECON 235 Introduction to Agricultural Markets 3
or ECON 380 Energy, Environmental and Resource Economics
AGEDS 451 Agricultural Law 4
ECON 362     Applied Ethics in Agriculture     3
or ECON 385     Economic Development
or ACCT 284     Financial Accounting

Total Credits     16

Political Sciences: 15 cr.
POL S 215     Introduction to American Government     3
POL S 310     State and Local Government     3
Political Science elective-choose from
POL S 235     Introduction to Ethics and Politics
POL S 319     Law and Politics
POL S 334     Politics and Society
POL S 335     Science, Technology, and Public Policy

Total Credits     15

Agricultural Sciences: 9 cr.
Complete 9 cr. from MTEOR 206 Introduction to Weather and Climate or
AGRON, AN S, AST, ENT, FS HN, HORT, or NREM.

Minor or Area of Concentration: 15 cr.
Complete 15 cr. from approved specialization area.

Agriculture and Society, B.S.

Freshman

Fall
SOC 110     R ENGL 250
ENGL 150     3 MATH 150
LIB 160     1 ECON 102
BIOL 101 or 211     3 SOC 325
ECON 101     3 Agriculture Science Elective
POL S 215
Agricultural Science Elective

Credits     16

Spring

Credits

Sophomore

Fall
POL S 310     3 P R 305
STAT 101     4 SP CM 212
Physical Science Elective     3 Ethics Elective
SOC 415     3 Physical Science Elective
Area of Concentration     3 Area of Concentration

Credits     16

Junior

Fall
SOC elective     3 POL S elective

Credits     3

Graduate Study

The department offers work for the degrees master of science and
doctor of philosophy with majors in sociology and rural sociology and
minor work for students majoring in other departments. For M.S. and
Ph.D. departmental requirements, see Program of Graduate Study for
Degrees in Sociology and Rural Sociology, available from the department
office. The department offers concentrations in a number of areas, e.g.,
community studies and development; sociology of families, inequality,
food systems, agriculture and environment; methodology; social change
and development; criminology; the economy, organizations and work;
and social psychology. The Department of Sociology does not offer a
nonthesis master's program.

Graduates have a broad understanding of sociology, address complex
societal problems, and communicate effectively with scientific colleagues
and the general public in both formal and informal settings. They
understand sociological theory, conduct research, and are prepared
to educate college students and contribute to public policy. Although
the department stipulates no language requirement for either the
degree master of science or the degree doctor of philosophy, specifying
competence in one or more languages may be desirable in some
instances.

The department also participates in the interdepartmental program
in interdepartmental majors in sustainable agriculture, transportation
and water resources, and interdepartmental minors in gerontology (see Index).