The graduate program in sustainable agriculture is an interdepartmental major offered through faculty in nineteen participating departments: Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering; Agricultural Education & Studies; Agronomy; Animal Science; Anthropology; Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering; Community & Regional Planning; Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology; Economics; Entomology; Food Science & Human Nutrition; Horticulture; Industrial & Manufacturing Systems Engineering; Natural Resource Ecology & Management; Philosophy & Religious Studies; Plant Pathology; Political Science; Sociology; and Veterinary Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine.

Master’s students must have a bachelor’s degree in one of the life, social, or engineering sciences, or a bachelor’s degree plus equivalent experience in these areas. Doctoral students must have a master’s degree and either an undergraduate or master’s degree in one of the majors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or its equivalent. Graduates of the program will be able to design and manage agricultural systems that increase food security, enhance human communities, and protect environmental quality. To acquire these abilities, students learn agroecological principles, study social relations underlying sustainable farming and food systems, and gain experience with practical techniques of sustainable agriculture. The program seeks to balance depth in disciplinary knowledge and perspectives with broader, systems-level thinking. It integrates technical and social sciences through a sequence of team-taught interdisciplinary core courses emphasizing higher-order critical thinking skills and active, collaborative approaches to learning.

Graduates of the program are qualified to work in a variety of settings, including university research, education, extension, agribusiness, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and farming.

Information on applications procedures, research interests of the faculty, and specific requirements of the major may be obtained at http://www.sust.ag.iastate.edu/gpsa/ or by contacting gpsa@iastate.edu.