

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL POLICY STUDIES

College of Agriculture— Agricultural & Rural Policy Studies

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 Agricultural & Rural Policy Studies major. The curriculum offers the flexibility needed to accommodate the special interests and needs of each student.

Student Learning Outcomes

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 Agricultural & Rural Policy Studies

Administered by the Department of Sociology (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2022-2023/collegeofliberalartsandsciences/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	6
Three credits of Speech Fundamentals	3

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
or AGEDS 311	Presentation and Sales Strategies for Agricultural Audiences	
P R 305	Publicity Methods	3
or AGEDS 327	Survey of Agriculture and Life Sciences Communication	
LIB 160	Introduction to College Level Research	1

Humanities and Social Sciences: 6 cr.

3 credits from approved humanities list	3
3 credits from approved social science list	3

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:	5	
MTEOR 206	Introduction to Weather and Climate	
or AGRON 2(Introduction to Weather and Climate	
or ASTRO, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS		

Total Credits 12

Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies Required 35 cr.

SOC 110	Orientation to Agriculture and Society	1
SOC 230	Rural Society in Transition	3
SOC 325	Transition in Agriculture	3

SOC 345	Population and Society	3
SOC 382	Environmental Sociology	3
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Strongly recommended:		
ECON 101L	Laboratory in Principles of Microeconomics	1
ECON 235	Introduction to Agricultural Markets	3
ECON 362	Applied Ethics in Agriculture	3
POL S 111	Introduction to American Government	3
POL S 310	State and Local Government	3
POL S 344	Public Policy	3
AGEDS 451	Agricultural Law	3
Total Credits		35

Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies Electives 15 cr.

AGEDS 312	Science With Practice	3
AGRON 342	World Food Issues: Past and Present	3
ECON 102	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
ECON 236	Agricultural Selling	3
ECON 321	Economics of Discrimination	3
ECON 334	Entrepreneurship in Agriculture	3
ECON 337	Agricultural Marketing	3
ECON 385	Economic Development	3
ECON 460	Agricultural, Food, and Trade Policy	3
POL S 235	Introduction to Ethics and Politics	3
POL S 121	Introduction to International Politics	3
POL S 125	Democracy and Dictatorship: Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
POL S 319	Law and Politics	3
POL S 335	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	3
POL S 420	Constitutional Law	3
SOC 302	Research Methods for the Social Sciences	3
SOC 310	Community	3
SOC 334	Politics and Society	3
SOC 348	Global Poverty, Resources and Sustainable Development	3
SOC 350	Women in Agriculture and the Food System	3
SOC 401	Contemporary Sociological Theories	3
SOC 411	Social Change in Developing Countries	3
WGS 301	International Perspectives on Women and Gender	3

Agricultural Science Electives: 9 cr.

Complete 9 cr. from AGRON, AN S, ENT, FS HN, HORT, or NREM.

Minor or Area of Concentration: 15 cr.

Complete 15 cr. for minor or area of concentration.

Electives: 14 cr.

Complete 14 cr. of free electives

Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies, B.S.**Freshman**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC 110	1 ENGL 250	3
SOC 230	3 SOC 325	3
ECON 101	3 ECON 235	3
ECON 101L	1 POL S 310	3
POL S 111	3 MATH 150	3
ENGL 150	3 LIB 160	1
BIOL 101 or 211	3	
	17	16

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC 345	3 SOC 382	3
ECON 362	3 Ag & Rural Policy Studies Elective	3
SP CM 212	3 P R 305	3
STAT 101	4 Ag Science Elective	3
Life Science Elective	3 Physical Science Elective	2
	Minor	3
	16	17

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Ag & Rural Policy Studies Elective	3 Ag & Rural Policy Studies Elective	3
POL S 344	3 Ag Science Elective	3
US Diversity Elective	3 International Perspective Elective	3
Physical Sciences Elective	3 Minor	3
Minor	3 Free Elective	3
	15	15

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Ag & Rural Policy Studies Elective	6 AGEDS 451	3
Minor	3 Ag & Rural Policy Studies Elective	3
Free Elective	6 Minor	3

	Free Elective	8
	15	17

Total Credits: 128

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).