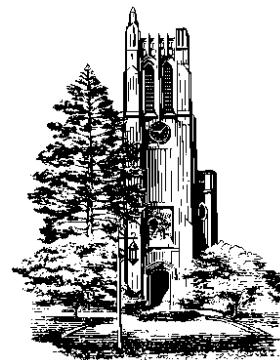


**Bachelor of Sciences Degree**  
**Department of Crop and Soil Sciences**  
**Michigan State University**  
**East Lansing, Michigan 48824**  
**(517) 355-0271**



A nation's level of development can be measured by its ability to produce food and fiber, which relates to their expertise in the area of Crop and Soil Sciences. You are invited to become a member of a profession that has no limits and that society cannot do without.

Crop and Soil Sciences is a diverse profession that encompasses all aspects of crop production and soil management. There is a close relationship between crop science and soil science. The goal of the crop scientist is to increase plant production, quality and profit by utilizing genetics, breeding and physiology. The goal of the soil scientist is to improve the soil fertility and the chemical, physical, and microbial characteristics of the soil. These two subjects are combined in Crop and Soil Sciences to develop an integrated approach to the management of crops and soils.

Another aspect to Crop and Soil Sciences is turfgrass management. While not directly involved with the production of food or fiber, turfgrass science encompasses many of the same agronomic principles and applies them to the management of grasses for use on golf courses, athletic fields, home lawns, and recreational areas. Turfgrass adds beauty to the landscape, minimizes sound and air pollution, stabilizes the soil, and reduces the heat load on homes through transpirational cooling.

The need for students majoring in crop and soil sciences is growing. They are needed in businesses and industries such as chemical companies, seed companies, fertilizer industries, commercial farms, feed mills, golf courses, lawn maintenance, utility companies, land appraisal firms and agricultural cooperatives. State and federal government positions are also available for agronomists.

With the greater need for trained personnel in crop and soil sciences, there is a greater need for able persons to teach them. Not only must student needs in the classrooms and laboratories be met, but farmers, ranchers, and home owners also seek information and more sophisticated training. Vocational agriculture instructors, college professors, county agents, extension specialists, and consultants all use crop and soil training in their educational work.

Many crop and soil scientists go into some area of public service, or work as seed inspectors, operators of weed control services, park and recreation directors, golf course superintendents, or managers of grower organizations. They may go into international agriculture. The United Nations, the Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, and many private organizations need knowledgeable people willing and able to help meet the world's great need for food.

## **Bachelor of Science Degree**

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences undergraduate curriculum is designed to train young men and women as professional crop scientists, soil scientists, turfgrass scientists and environmentalists; and prepare them to apply scientific principles of crop and soil management for careers in agriculture, agribusiness, turfgrass management, government agencies, and related areas. Students who plan to continue their studies are encouraged to select additional course work which will strengthen their preparation.

There are two majors in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences: the *Crop and Soil Sciences* major and the *Environmental Soil Science* major. The Crop and Soil Sciences major has three options or tracks: *Advanced Study*, *Agronomy*, and *Turfgrass Management*. In addition, there are several specializations which students may obtain along with the major: *Agribusiness Management*, *Agronomy*, *Bailey Scholars Connected Learning*, *Biotechnology*, *Environmental Economics*, *Environmental Studies*, *Food Industry Management*, or *International Agriculture*. Other areas of emphasis can be tailored to suit the students' needs.

A student majoring in Crop and Soil Sciences works closely with an academic advisor to design a program of study tailored to the student's goals. Student participation in departmental affairs and in informal dialogue with faculty is strongly encouraged.

## Employment Opportunities

Students with a degree in Crop and Soil Sciences can expect a starting salary in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000. This of course depends on the company and the type of position. Over the past 10 years, students with a degree in Crop and Soil Sciences have taken positions as agriculturalists, agronomists, bank loan officers, chemical applicators, conservationists, county extension agents, crop consultants, engineering assistants, environmental specialists, fertilizer plant managers, golf course superintendents, farm managers, land use planners, lawn care specialists, marketing agents, research and development specialists, sales representatives, sod farm managers, soil scientists, and teachers.

## Awards and Scholarships

There are several awards and scholarships that are available to students in Crop and Soil Sciences who show outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and involvement in department activities. These awards are presented annually at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Honors Banquet during the Spring semester. In addition to the awards available through the department, there are also several awards and scholarships are granted by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

## Student Activities

The University is a big place and one can easily become overwhelmed. Students are encouraged to join clubs, fraternities, sororities or other organizations during their tenure at Michigan State University. The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences has two clubs that students are encouraged to join, the *Agronomy Club* and the *Turfgrass Club*.

**Agronomy Club** is open to all undergraduate students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Club members sponsor several social functions during the academic year, such as a faculty-student barbecue at the end of spring semester. Students gain valuable experience by working on club projects and also have opportunities to meet professional agronomists. The club is a unifying force to help students from many backgrounds get to know each other and work together. Visit the Agronomy Club's web site at <http://www.msu.edu/~agclub> for more information.

**Turfgrass Club** offers a variety of social and professional experiences for all interested undergraduates. Club members take field trips to golf courses, football stadiums, equipment dealers, and other pertinent areas for on-site examination of turfgrass management practices. Students also gain insight into the profession by sharing Professional Internship experiences. Visit the Turfgrass Club's web site at <http://www.msu.edu/~turfclub> for more information.

In addition to our two clubs, there are several honorary and social fraternities and sororities open to students in the College of Agriculture and natural Resources. Alpha Zeta is a national honorary, open to all students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, and character. AZ stresses service to college and community in its activities. Alpha Gamma Rho and Farmhouse are social fraternities with houses in the community; rush is open to male students in the college. Sigma Alpha is a professional sorority for women in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources that stresses professional development and maintenance of the friendships made among members after graduation.

## Additional Information

For additional information on the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences Bachelor of Science degree, please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.css.msu.edu>

or write to us at:

Undergraduate Programs  
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences  
Michigan State University  
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