College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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General Information

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Mississippi State University is one of the leading colleges of agriculture, life sciences, and human ecology in the southeast. Student enrollment, degree offerings, and student placement have increased steadily each year.

As a land-grant institution, Mississippi State’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences offers excellent academic programs related to basic life sciences, environmental issues, agricultural production, food and fiber processing, agribusiness, agricultural information science, and the conservative and sustainable use of natural resources. With the establishment of MSU’s Institute for Genomics, Biocomputing and Biotechnology (IGBB), the College will continue to enhance the study of the life sciences, including biotechnological applications that will have a tremendous impact on education, agricultural production, food, fibers, human and animal health, the environment, and bio-based industrial products.

Students may choose from 17 undergraduate curricula in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Each degree program will prepare students for career opportunities in the multi-billion dollar agricultural and life sciences’ industry. These programs will also prepare students for graduate and/or professional school study.

Organization: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is one of five major units of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. The others are the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES), Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES), the College of Forest Resources (CFR), the Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC), and the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

Faculty and Facilities: The level of education of the faculty of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as measured by advanced degrees and by the diversity of the institutions from which these degrees were earned, is exceptionally high. The teaching faculty includes resident staff of the MAFES and MSU-ES, which offer valuable opportunities for students on the undergraduate and graduate (See MSU Graduate Bulletin) levels. The sharing of faculty and facilities between the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, MAFES, and MSU-ES keeps the instructional program current and meaningful to students.

Policies

Graduation Requirements: The minimum requirements for graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences include the following:

1. Fulfillment of all university academic requirements as published in this Bulletin.
2. Completion of the General Education requirements as published in this Bulletin. (See Listing of Approved General Education Courses)
3. Completion of all program requirements in the major of choice with an average of “C” or better (2.00 on a 4.00 scale).
4. Completion of sufficient upper level credit hours to satisfy the university requirement of twenty-five percent of degree hours in upper level courses.

All students should consult with their assigned departmental advisor who will review and approve course schedules and provide information and answer questions regarding progress toward degree, career opportunities, and campus resources.

Computer Requirements: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences requires all entering freshmen and transfer students to own or lease a personal computer. This college-wide requirement is a proactive measure to insure that students will develop the computer skills necessary for success in agriculture and life sciences professions. CALS requirements match the requirements for MSU (http://www.its.msstate.edu/support/desktop/specsstudent/) except for Landscape Architecture students and Human Sciences students. Please see departmental websites for specific requirements for those programs.

Pre-Professional Programs: The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences offers a number of programs of study that lead to professional and graduate degree programs including:

- Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Pre-Law
- Pre-Medicine
Pre-professional programs of study within CALS enable students to have completed all requirements necessary for admission to the graduate and professional programs of their choice. See listed majors for the specific requirements for each of these areas and contact departmental representatives for additional information.

Degree Programs

Students may choose from the following degree programs and concentrations in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences:

• Agribusiness
  • Management
  • Policy and Law
  • Production

• Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business
  • Enterprise Management
  • Natural Resources and Environmental Management
  • Precision Agriculture
  • Surveying and Geomatics

• Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications
  • Agricultural Education
  • Agricultural Leadership
  • Agricultural Communications

• Agricultural Science

• Agronomy
  • Agricultural and Environmental Soil Sciences
  • Golf and Sports Turf Management
  • Integrated Crop Management
  • Integrated Pest Management

• Animal and Dairy Sciences
  • Business and Industry
  • Production Management
  • Science/Veterinary Science

• Biochemistry
  • Bioinformatics
  • Entomology
  • Forensic Sciences
  • Plant Pathology
  • Pre-Dental
  • Pre-MBA
  • Pre-Medicine
  • Pre-Optometry
  • Pre-Pharmacy
  • Pre-Veterinary Medicine
  • Science

• Culinology

• Design and Product Development

• Environmental Economics and Management

• Environmental Science in Agricultural Systems
• Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion
  • Pre-Health
  • Food Safety
  • Food and Nutrition
  • Food Processing/Business
  • Food Science
• Horticulture
  • Floral Management
  • Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture
  • Fruit and Vegetable Production
• Human Development and Family Science
  • Child Development
  • Child Life
  • Youth Development
  • Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education
  • Family Science
  • Gerontology Certificate
• Landscape Architecture
• Landscape Contracting and Management

• Poultry Science
  • Applied Poultry Management
  • Science and Pre-Vet Science

Minors are available in a number of these programs. See the appropriate degree program in this Bulletin for additional information or call departmental representatives.

**Five-Year, Two-Degree Curricula in Agriculture and Business and in Agriculture and Liberal Arts**

Five-year, two-degree curricula leading to Bachelor of Science degrees in both Agriculture and Business and Agriculture and Liberal Arts are available. Such curricula may be designed with a major in any field of agriculture or human sciences combined with a major in any field of business or liberal arts. These programs must meet the minimum requirements of 124 semester hours with a C average or better for a degree in Agriculture including

1. a minimum of 54 semester hours with a C average or better in business approved by the College of Business and Industry, or
2. a minimum of 48 hours with a C average or better in the liberal arts field approved by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students desiring to follow a five-year, two-degree curriculum will develop a detailed program by consultation with advisors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Business and Industry or the College of Arts and Sciences. The two degrees are conferred simultaneously at the end of the fifth year. Students should declare their intentions of pursuing the two-degree program as early as possible, generally not later than the end of the sophomore year.

**Pre-Veterinary Medicine**

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences does not offer a degree in Pre-Veterinary Medicine; therefore, students should select a major that includes Pre-Veterinary courses. These requirements are included in the following degree programs: Animal and Dairy Sciences; Poultry Science; Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Microbiology; and Biological Sciences (the latter two degree programs are located in the College of Arts and Sciences). Each of the four degree programs within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) allows the student to complete the necessary requirements for entry to the College of Veterinary Medicine and a Bachelor of Science simultaneously. To receive a Bachelor of Science degree, each student must meet the curriculum requirements set forth by the respective department provided through the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Concentration (Example: See Animal and Dairy Sciences). Upon the successful completion of the undergraduate degree program through the junior year and the pre-veterinary medicine course requirements, a student may apply to the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Upon the successful completion of the first year of CVM courses (approximately 40-42 hrs.), a student may apply these hours toward the bachelor’s degree. This course work
can serve as the senior year of the undergraduate curriculum. This “three plus one” program is offered by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for Pre-Veterinary students.

Address inquiries concerning the Pre-Veterinary medicine concentrations available to desired degree program and advisor listed below:

Animal and Dairy Sciences Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program  
Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences  
Jessica Graves, Pre-Veterinary Advisor  
4017 Wise Center  
Box 9815  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 325-2936

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program  
Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology & Plant Pathology  
Dr. Darrell Sparks, Pre-Veterinary Advisor  
402 Dorman Hall  
Box 9540  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 325-7733

Food Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program  
Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion  
Dr. Wes Schilling, Pre-Veterinary Advisor  
105 Herzer Dairy Science Building  
Box 9805  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 325-3200

Poultry Science Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program  
Department of Poultry Science  
Ms. Jessica Wells  
114 Hill Poultry Science Building  
Box 9665  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
Phone: (662) 325-3416

### Pre-Veterinary Requirements for entry into The College of Veterinary Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing/Composition</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Speaking or Technical Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or AELC 3203 Professional Writing in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology with lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science with lab</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1134 Biology I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1144 Biology II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General/Inorganic Chemistry with lab</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Chemistry with lab</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 4513 Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 4511 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 4523 Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 4521 Organic Chemistry Laboratory II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biochemistry</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics with lab (can be trig-based)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Science Electives</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fine Arts</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Electives will be needed from requirements toward the student's alternate major to complete the minimum 124 hour degree.

**International Studies in Agriculture**

The International Studies in Agriculture minor within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is offered to allow students to enhance their knowledge of an interdependent global food system, the impacts of international agricultural technologies and systems, and the various agricultural educational systems around the world as well as develop skills needed in a global economy. Students will be prepared to make decisions, communicate effectively, and lead in a culturally diverse agricultural environment. Students must complete a minimum of 21 hours from a list of approved courses with a grade of "C" or above in all classes counting toward the minor.

Students seeking the International Studies in Agriculture minor will be required to complete the following courses:

**Core Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GA 2103</td>
<td>Seminar in International Studies in Agricultural Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or AELC 2103</td>
<td>Seminar in International Studies in Agricultural Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AELC 4503</td>
<td>International Agricultural Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language I</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language II</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Abroad</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

A minimum of three hours from Category I AND three hours of additional coursework which may come from Category I or II.

Category I: CALS Electives that have an International component or that apply broadly to international studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABE 4843</td>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or LA 4843</td>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEC 2713</td>
<td>Introduction to Food and Resource Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEC 3213</td>
<td>International Trade in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEC 3233</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Economics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEC 3413</td>
<td>Introduction to Food Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENS 2103</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNH 4193</td>
<td>Social-Cultural Aspects of Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNH 4333</td>
<td>Food Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDM 3573</td>
<td>Historic Costume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 1423</td>
<td>History of Landscape Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDM 4603</td>
<td>Global Sourcing in the Textile and Apparel Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 1803</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture Appreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 4113</td>
<td>Design Theory and Criticism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA 4653</td>
<td>Study Abroad: Gardens and Urban Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA 4753</td>
<td>Sustainable Landscape Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSS 3633</td>
<td>Sustainable and Organic Horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSS 4043</td>
<td>International Horticulture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Category II: MSU Campus-wide Electives with an International Focus - see advisor for complete list

1. Three hours (minimum) as a study abroad course or international experience as linked to a degree program-specific course, special topics, directed individual study, internship or other means in the student's curriculum.

2. As additional courses in CALS with an international or global focus are developed, they may be added as an elective. Other courses outside of CALS or as transfer hours may be substituted as approved by the minor advisor.

3. Other courses from across MSU or as transfer hours may be substituted as approved by the minor advisor.