

AGRICULTURE, SPECIALIZATION IN CROP SCIENCE (MS)

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

<https://plantsciences.calpoly.edu/graduate-students>

The MS in Agriculture program provides students with advanced knowledge and skills in their areas of interest to succeed in their future endeavors. The MS in Agriculture with a Crop Science specialization is for students with undergraduate preparation in plant sciences or another directly applicable discipline. Graduates conduct applied research in plant physiology, agricultural production systems, and/or postharvest practices. Students who complete a master's degree at Cal Poly are well-prepared for jobs in industry, further graduate work at a Ph.D. institution, or teaching at a community college.

Requirements for Admission

Students apply via Cal State Apply (<https://www.calstate.edu/apply/>) and must submit a transcript, a personal statement addressing motivation for pursuing a Master's in Agriculture at Cal Poly, and two letters of recommendation. In addition, applicants who did not obtain their undergraduate degree at Cal Poly are also required to submit scores from the GRE General test. Communicating with the Graduate Program Coordinator before applying is strongly recommended.

International Students must meet all the standard eligibility criteria and demonstrate proficiency in English (English Proficiency Exam Requirements)

Prerequisites: A bachelor's degree from a closely related field.

Minimum GPA: Must have attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 in the last 60 semester units attempted. An applicant not meeting these academic standards, but who meets the basic university standard of a grade point average in the last 60 semester units attempted may be considered for admission as a conditionally classified graduate student.

Application due date: Applications are accepted for Fall and Spring semesters. Please see Graduate Student Dates and Deadlines (<https://www.calpoly.edu/admissions/graduate-student/dates-and-deadlines/>) for application deadlines.

Advancement to Candidacy

Six units of graduate coursework completed with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and completion of the CAFES Graduate Committee Form.

Culminating Experience

Thesis: Along with a faculty advisor, students will work on a specific research topic, preparing a written thesis, and present it to the public as a 45-minute thesis seminar, after which the thesis committee will have the opportunity to privately ask related questions as the student defends the thesis.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate expertise in crop science.
2. Develop, test, or select appropriate technology in crop science based on current conditions and future needs.
3. Demonstrate effective communication skills related to crop science research.
4. Formulate decisions utilizing professional ethics within their respective disciplines.
5. Examine the value and role of diversity of people and ideas when developing agricultural system solutions.
6. Investigate crop science problems using critical thinking and derive appropriate solutions.

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
AG 5599 or PLSC 5599	Thesis Thesis	6
ESCI 5501	Research Planning	3
FSN 5505 or AG 5581	Orientation to Graduate Studies Graduate Seminar	1
STAT 5110	Introductory Statistics for Graduate Students	3
STAT 5120	Intermediate Statistics for Graduate Students	3
Approved Electives		
Select from the following:		14
PLSC 4410	Crop Physiology	
PLSC 4421	Postharvest Technology	
PLSC 4470 or WVIT 4470	Special Advanced Topics Special Advanced Topics	

PLSC 5500	Individual Study in Plant Sciences
PLSC 5570	Special Advanced Topics
Select any 4000-5000 level WVIT courses	
Total Units	