

PLANT BIOLOGY

Description

Website: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/plant-biology> (<http://agronomy.unl.edu/plant-biology/>)

The plant biology degree program provides flexible entry for undergraduate students that have an interest in the plant sciences. Once enrolled in the program, students will take a core of classes that will allow them to continue in the plant biology degree program or allow them to easily transfer to other Life Sciences degree programs. Students will have the opportunity to interact with the faculty of the Center for Plant Science Innovation as well as the above departments and schools for advising, internships, and research opportunities.

Studying plant biology will allow students to explore their knowledge of plants at the following levels:

1. Molecular. (Biotechnology Option)
2. Cellular and organismal. (biological, biochemical/chemical sciences)
3. Whole plant/applied physiological. (horticulture and agronomy courses)
4. Ecological. (Ecology and Management Option)

Students may select a bachelor of science track through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or a bachelor of science or arts track through the College of Arts and Sciences. Every student must complete a set of core courses that provide breadth in basic sciences. Introduction to plant biology should be taken during the first semester in the program. Students also must complete an emphasis to provide depth in one of the following options: Biotechnology or Ecology and Management.

The plant biology program includes a career experience/internship course (PLAS 295/RNGE 295/SOIL 295; BIOS 395; PLAS 395T; NRES 497) which provides the opportunity to gain work experience in an off-campus setting related to a student's academic and career objectives.

A research project initiated by the beginning of the junior year is required. The presentation of this work will be part of the Plant Biology Portfolio and Assessment course.

Students interested in plant biology through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources are advised to make an initial appointment with the chief academic advisor, Dr. Don Lee, who will then assign them to a faculty member in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

College Requirements

College Admission

Requirements for admission into the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) are consistent with general University admission requirements (one unit equals one high school year): 4 units of English, 4 units of mathematics, 3 units of natural sciences, 3 units of social sciences, and 2 units of world language. Students must also meet performance requirements: a 3.0 cumulative high school grade point average OR an ACT composite of 20 or higher, writing portion not required OR a score of 1040 or higher on the SAT Critical Reading and Math sections OR rank in the top one-half of graduating class; transfer

students must have a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) cumulative grade point average and 2.0 on the most recent term of attendance.

Admission Deficiencies/Removal of Deficiencies

Students who are admitted to CASNR with core course deficiencies must remove these deficiencies within the first 30 credit hours at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, or within the first calendar year at Nebraska, whichever takes longer, excluding foreign languages. Students have up to 60 credit hours to remove world language deficiencies. College-level coursework taken to remove deficiencies may be used to meet degree requirements in CASNR.

Deficiencies in the required entrance subjects can be removed by the completion of specified courses in the University or by correspondence.

The Office of Admissions, Alexander Building (south entrance), City Campus, provides information to new students on how deficiencies can be removed.

College Degree Requirements

Curriculum Requirements

The curriculum requirements of the College consist of three areas: ACE (Achievement-Centered Education), College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Core, and Degree Program requirements and electives. All three areas of the College Curriculum Requirements are incorporated within the description of the Major/Degree Program sections of the catalog. The individual major/degree program listings of classes ensures that a student will meet the minimum curriculum requirements of the College.

World Languages/Language Requirement

Two units of a world language are required. This requirement is usually met with two years of high school language.

Experiential Learning

All undergraduates in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources must take an Experiential Learning (EL) designated course. This may include 0-credit courses designed to document co-curricular activities recognized as Experiential Learning.

Minimum Hours Required for Graduation

The College grants the bachelors degree in programs associated with agricultural sciences, natural resources, and related programs. Students working toward a degree must earn at least 120 semester hours of credit. A minimum cumulative grade point average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained throughout the course of studies and is required for graduation. Some degree programs have a higher cumulative grade point average required for graduation. Please check the degree program on its graduation cumulative grade point average.

Grade Rules

Removal of C-, D, and F Grades

Only the most recent letter grade received in a given course will be used in computing a student's cumulative grade point average if the student has completed the course more than once and previously received a grade or grades below C in that course.

The previous grade (or grades) will not be used in the computation of the cumulative grade point average, but it will remain a part of the academic record and will appear on any transcript.

A student can remove from his/her cumulative average a course grade of C-, D+, D, D-, or F if the student repeats the same course at the University of Nebraska and receives a grade other than P (pass), I (incomplete), N (no pass), W (withdrew), or NR (no report). If a course is no longer being offered, it is not eligible for the revised grade point average computation process.

For complete procedures and regulations, see the Office of the University Registrar website at <http://www.unl.edu/regrec/course-repeats> (<http://www.unl.edu/regrec/course-repeats/>).

Pass/No Pass

Students in CASNR may take any course offered on a Pass/No Pass basis within the 24-hour limitation established by the Faculty Senate. However, a department may specify that the Pass/No Pass status of its courses be limited to non-majors or may choose to offer some courses for letter grades only.

GPA Requirements

A minimum cumulative grade point average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) must be maintained throughout the course of studies and is required for graduation. Some degree programs have a higher cumulative grade point average required for graduation. Please check the degree program on its graduation cumulative grade point average.

Transfer Credit Rules

To be considered for admission a transfer student, Nebraska resident or nonresident, must have an accumulated average of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a minimum C average in the last semester of attendance at another college. Transfer students who have completed less than 12 credit hours of college study must submit either ACT or SAT scores.

Ordinarily, credits earned at an accredited college are accepted by the University. The College, however, will evaluate all hours submitted on an application for transfer and reserves the right to accept or reject any of them. Sixty (60) is the maximum number of hours the University will accept on transfer from a two-year college. Ninety (90) is the maximum number of hours the University will accept from a four-year college. Transfer credit in the degree program must be approved by the degree program advisor on a Request for Substitution Form to meet specific course requirements, group requirements, or course level requirements in the major. At least 9 hours in the major field, including the capstone course, must be completed at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln regardless of the number of hours transferred.

The College will accept no more than 10 semester hours of C-, D+, D, and D- grades from other schools. The C-, D+, D, and D- grades can only be applied to free electives. This policy does not apply to the transfer of grades from UNO or UNK to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Joint Academic Transfer Programs

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has agreements with many institutions to support joint academic programs. The transfer programs include dual degree programs and cooperative degree programs. Dual degree programs offer students the opportunity to receive a degree from a participating institution and also to complete the requirements for a bachelor of science degree in CASNR. Cooperative programs result in a single degree from either the University of Nebraska–Lincoln or the cooperating institution.

Dual Degree Programs

A to B Programs

The A to B Program, a joint academic program offered by the CASNR and participating community colleges, allows students to complete the first two years of a degree program at the participating community college and continue their education and study in a degree program leading toward a bachelor of science degree.

The A to B Program provides a basic knowledge plus specialized coursework. Students transfer into CASNR with junior standing.

Depending on the community college, students enrolled in the A to B Program may complete the requirements for an associate of science at the community college, transfer to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and work toward a bachelor of science degree.

Participating community colleges include:

- Central Community College
- Metropolitan Community College
- Mid-Plains Community College
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- Nebraska Indian Community College
- Northeast Community College
- Southeast Community College
- Western Nebraska Community College

3+2 Programs

Two specialized degree programs in **animal science** and **veterinary science** are offered jointly with an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine. These two programs permit CASNR animal science or veterinary science students to receive a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a degree in animal science or veterinary science after successfully completing two years of the professional curriculum in veterinary medicine at an accredited veterinary school. Students who successfully complete the 3+2 Program, must provide transcripts and complete the Application for Degree form via MyRED. Students without MyRED access may apply for graduation in person at Husker Hub in the Canfield Administration Building, or by mail. Students should discuss these degree programs with their academic advisor.

Cooperative Degree Programs

Academic credit from the University and a cooperating institution are applied towards a four-year degree from either the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (University degree-granting program) or the cooperating institution (non-University degree-granting program). All have approved programs of study.

UNL Degree-Granting Programs

A University of Nebraska–Lincoln degree-granting program is designed to provide students the opportunity to complete a two-year program of study at one of the four-year institutions listed below, transfer to CASNR, and complete the requirements for a bachelor of science degree.

Chadron State College. Chadron State College offers a 2+2 program leading to a grassland ecology and management degree program and a transfer program leading to a bachelor of science in agricultural education in the teaching option.

Wayne State College. Wayne State College offers a 3+1 program leading to a bachelor of science in plant biology in the ecology and management

option and a 3+1 program leading to a bachelor of science in Applied Science.

University of Nebraska at Kearney. Transfer programs are available for students pursuing degree programs leading to a bachelor of science degree.

University of Nebraska at Omaha. Transfer programs are available for students pursuing degree programs leading to a bachelor of science degree.

Non University of Nebraska–Lincoln Degree-Granting Programs

CASNR cooperates with other institutions to provide coursework that is applied towards a degree at the cooperating institution. Pre-professional programs offered by CASNR allow students to complete the first two or three years of a degree program at the University prior to transferring and completing a degree at the cooperating institution.

Chadron State College–Range Science. The 3+1 Program in range science allows Chadron State College students to pursue a range science degree through Chadron State College. Students complete three years of coursework at Chadron State College and one year of specialized range science coursework (32 credit hours) at CASNR.

Dordt College (Iowa)–Agricultural Education: Teaching Option. This program allows students to pursue an Agricultural Education Teaching Option degree leading toward a bachelor of science in agricultural education. Students at Dordt College will complete 90 credit hours in the Agricultural Education: Teaching Option Transfer Program.

Residency

Students must complete at least 30 of the total hours for their degree using University of Nebraska–Lincoln credits. At least 18 of the 30 credit hours must be in courses offered through CASNR¹ (>299) including the appropriate ACE 10 degree requirement or an approved ACE 10 substitution offered through another Nebraska college and excluding independent study regardless of the number of hours transferred. Credit earned during education abroad may be used toward the residency requirement if students register through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and participate in prior-approved education abroad programs. The University of Nebraska–Lincoln open enrollment and summer independent study courses count toward residence.

¹ Includes courses taught by CASNR faculty through interdisciplinary prefixes (e.g., LIFE, MBIQ, ENVR, SCIL, EAEP, HRTM, ENSC) and CASNR crosslisted courses taught by non-CASNR faculty.

Online and Distance Education

There are many opportunities to earn college credit online through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Some of these credits may be applicable not only as elective credits but also toward the fulfillment of the College's education requirements. Credits earned online may count toward residency. However, certain offerings may not be counted toward scholarship requirements or academic recognition criteria.

For further information, contact:

Office of Online and Distance Education
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
305 Brace Labs
Lincoln, NE 68588-0109
402-472-4681
<http://online.unl.edu/>

Independent Study Rules

Students wishing to take part in independent studies must obtain permission; complete and sign a contract form; and furnish copies of the contract to the instructor, advisor, departmental office, and the Dean's Office. The contract should be completed before registration. Forms are available in 103 Agricultural Hall or online at the CASNR website.

Independent study projects include research, literature review or extension of coursework under the supervision and evaluation of a departmental faculty member.

Students may only count 12 hours of independent study toward their degrees and no more than 6 hours can be counted during their last 36 hours earned, excluding senior thesis, internships, and courses taught under an independent study number.

Other College Degree Requirements

Capstone Course Requirement

A capstone course is required for each CASNR degree program. A capstone course is defined as a course in which students are required to integrate diverse bodies of knowledge to solve a problem or formulate a policy of societal importance.

ACE Requirements

All students must fulfill the Achievement Centered Education (ACE) requirements. Information about the ACE program may be viewed at ace.unl.edu (<https://ace.unl.edu/>).

The minimum requirements of CASNR reflect the common core of courses that apply to students pursuing degrees in the college. Students should work with an advisor to satisfy ACE outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 10 with the college requirements.

Catalog Rule

Students must fulfill the requirements stated in the catalog for the academic year in which they are first admitted to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln or when they were first admitted to a Joint Academic Transfer Program. Students transferring from a community college, but without admission to a Joint Academic Transfer Program, may be eligible to fulfill the requirements as stated in the catalog for an academic year in which they were enrolled at the community college prior to attending the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This decision should be made in consultation with academic advisors, provided the student a) was enrolled in a community college during the catalog year they are utilizing, b) maintained continuous enrollment at the previous institution for 1 academic year or more, and c) continued enrollment at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln within 1 calendar year from their last term at the previous institution. In consultation with advisors, a student may choose to follow a subsequent catalog for any academic year in which they are admitted to and enrolled as a degree-seeking student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Students must complete all degree requirements from a single catalog year. The catalog which a student follows for degree requirements may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of plant biology will be able to:

1. Be confident in explaining how various plants grow and reproduce and predict how they will respond to their growing environment.

- Plan and conduct experiments that are designed to test hypotheses and then communicate their discoveries in formats designed for other scientists or for the public.
- Use the principles of ecology to analyze and interpret the interactions of the plant, animal, environmental, and economic aspects of grassland ecosystems. (Ecology and Management Option)
- Identify management strategies for grasslands that ensure sustained productivity and resilience. (Ecology and Management Option)
- Envision and design genetic and production improvements in plants to better meet the needs of people or changes in plant production environments. (Biotechnology Option)
- Be competitive applicants for graduate programs worldwide in plant biology.

Major Requirements

The core requirements and one of the options must be completed.

Core Requirements

College Integrative Courses

SCIL 101	Science and Decision-Making for a Complex World	3
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Career Experience

Select one of the following:		1
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PLAS 295 / Internship
RNGE 295 /
SOIL 295

BIOS 395 Internship

PLAS 395B Internship in Horticulture

NRES 497 Career Experiences in Natural Resource Sciences

Independent Study/Current Project

PLAS 92 / NRES 92	Plant Biology Portfolio and Assessment	0
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Select one of the following:		1
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PLAS 496 / Independent Study
RNGE 496 /
SOIL 496

BIOS 498 Independent Research in Biological Sciences

PLAS 391B Special Topics in Horticulture
or PLAS 399 Independent Study

NRES 496 Independent Study

PLPT 496 Independent Study

Credit Hours Subtotal:		5
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Mathematical and Statistics (ACE 3)

MATH 106	Calculus I	5
STAT 218	Introduction to Statistics	3

Credit Hours Subtotal:		8
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Communications

Written Communication (ACE 1)

Select one of the following:		3
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ENGL 150 Writing and Inquiry

ENGL 151 Writing and Argument

ENGL 254 Writing and Communities

JGEN 120 Basic Business Communication

JGEN 200 Technical Communication I

JGEN 300 Technical Communication II

Oral Communication (ACE 2)

Select one of the following:		3
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COMM 209 Public Speaking

COMM 286 Business and Professional Communication

Credit Hours Subtotal:		6
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Natural Sciences

PLAS 153 / SOIL 153	Soil Resources	4
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CHEM 109A & CHEM 109L	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory (ACE 4)	4
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CHEM 110A & CHEM 110L	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	4
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CHEM 251 & CHEM 253	Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry I Laboratory	4
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Select 4 hours from the following:		4
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PHYS 141 Elementary General Physics I

PHYS 151 Elements of Physics

PHYS 211 General Physics I
& PHYS 221 and General Physics Laboratory I

PHYS 212 General Physics II
& PHYS 222 and General Physics Laboratory II

Select 4 hours from the following: ¹		4
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BIOC 401 Elements of Biochemistry
& BIOC 401L and Laboratory for Elements of
Biochemistry

BIOC 431 Biochemistry I: Structure and Metabolism

BIOC 432 Biochemistry II: Metabolism and Biological
Information

BIOC 433 Biochemistry Laboratory

BIOC 434 Plant Biochemistry

BIOC 435 Advanced Topics in Biochemistry

BIOC 437 Research Techniques in Biochemistry

BIOC 486 Advanced Topics in Biophysical Chemistry

Credit Hours Subtotal:		24
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Biological Sciences

PLAS 215	Genetics	4
or BIOS 206	General Genetics	

PLAS 278	Botany	4
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PLAS 325	Introductory Plant Physiology	4
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LIFE 120 & LIFE 120L	Fundamentals of Biology I and Fundamentals of Biology I laboratory	4
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LIFE 121 & LIFE 121L	Fundamentals of Biology II and Fundamentals of Biology II Laboratory ¹	4
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NRES 220 & NRES 222 or BIOS 207	Principles of Ecology and Ecology Laboratory Ecology and Evolution	4
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Credit Hours Subtotal:		24
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Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences

ECON 211	Principles of Macroeconomics (ACE 6)	3
or ECON 212	Principles of Microeconomics	

Select one course each from ACE outcomes 5, 7, 8, and 9	12
Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
Option Requirements	
Complete requirements	37-38
Credit Hours Subtotal:	38
Total Credit Hours	120

¹ Minimum C grade required.

Ecology and Management Option

Within this option one course must be taken to fulfill the ACE 10 outcome. Suggested courses are:

ACE 10 Courses

PLAS 403	Scientific Writing and Communication
BIOS 454 / NRES 454	Ecological Interactions
BIOS 457 / GEOL 457	Ecosystem Ecology
NRES 438	Grassland Conservation: Planning and Management

Required Courses

NRES 245 / PLAS 245 or NRES 310	Introduction to Grassland Ecology and Management Introduction to Forest Management	3-4
PLAS 444 / GRAS 444 / NRES 444 / RNGE 444	Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		6-7

Earth Sciences

Water/Climate

Select one of the following: 3-4

METR 100	Weather and Climate
NRES 208	Climate Literacy in Natural Resources
NRES 408 / GEOG 408 / METR 408 / PLAS 408 / WATS 408	Microclimate: The Biological Environment
WATS 281 / GEOG 281 / NRES 281	Introduction to Water Science

Geospatial Information Sciences

Select one of the following: 3-4

GEOG 217	Principles of GIS
GEOG 418 / NRES 418	Introduction to Remote Sensing
NRES 218	Introduction to Geospatial Technologies

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6-8

Biology

Plant Identification

PLAS 442 / GRAS 442 / NRES 442 / RNGE 442	Wildland Plants	3
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Plant-Animal-Organismal Interactions

Select one of the following: 3-4

PLAS 340 / GRAS 340 / RNGE 340	Range Management and Improvement
PLAS 460 / BIOS 460 / NRES 460 / SOIL 460	Soil Microbial Ecology
BIOS 317	The Biology of Plants
BIOS 368	Plants in Human Medicine: Biological, Social, and Ethical Dimensions
BIOS 475	Avian Biology
BIOS 476 / NRES 476	Mammalogy
ENTO 115 / BIOS 115 & ENTO 116 / BIOS 116	Insect Biology and Insect Identification
NRES 211	Introduction to Conservation Biology
NRES 311	Wildlife Ecology and Management
NRES 348	Wildlife Damage Management

Credit Hours Subtotal: 6-7

Ecology and Management

Select two of the following: 7-8

PLAS 204	Resource-Efficient Crop Management
PLAS 240 / RNGE 240	Forage Crop and Pasture Management
PLAS 440 / GRAS 440 / NRES 440 / RNGE 440	Great Plains Ecosystem
BIOS 454 / NRES 454	Ecological Interactions
BIOS 457 / GEOL 457	Ecosystem Ecology
NRES 310	Introduction to Forest Management
NRES 417 / PLAS 418	Agroforestry Systems in Sustainable Agriculture
NRES 424	Forest Ecology
NRES 459 / BIOS 459 / WATS 459	Limnology
NRES 468 / BIOS 458 / BSEN 458 / WATS 468	Wetlands

Credit Hours Subtotal: 7-8

Electives

Select 7-13 credits 7-13

Credit Hours Subtotal:	7-13
Total Credit Hours	32-43

Biotechnology Option

Within this option one course must be taken to fulfill the ACE 10 outcome. Suggested courses are:

ACE 10 Courses

PLAS 403	Scientific Writing and Communication
BIOS 454 / NRES 454	Ecological Interactions
BIOS 457 / GEOL 457	Ecosystem Ecology

Required Courses

BIOS 312	Microbiology	3
BIOS 478 / PLAS 478	Plant Anatomy	4

Select one of the following: 3-4

BIOC 442 / STAT 442	Computational Biology
BIOS 337	Applications of Bioinformatics
BIOS 427	Practical Bioinformatics Laboratory

Select at least 3 hours from each of the three categories below for a total of 17 hours or more: 17

Biological Sciences

PLAS 270 / NRES 270 / PLPT 270	Biological Invaders
PLAS 434 / BIOC 434 / BIOS 434 / CHEM 434	Plant Biochemistry
PLAS 460 / BIOS 460 / NRES 460 / SOIL 460	Soil Microbial Ecology
BIOS 205	Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory
BIOS 302	Cell Biology
BIOS 317	The Biology of Plants
BIOS 418	Advanced Genetics
BIOS 420 / MBIO 420	Molecular Genetics
BIOS 425	Plant Biotechnology
BIOS 471	Plant Systematics
or BIOS 429	Phylogenetic Biology
BIOS 477	Bioinformatics and Molecular Evolution

Applied Plant Biology

PLAS 131 & PLAS 132	Plant Science and Agronomic Plant Science Laboratory
or PLAS 131	Plant Science and Agronomic Plant Science Laboratory
& PLAS 132	
or PLAS 131	Plant Science and Plant Sciences Laboratory
& PLAS 134	

PLAS 408 / GEOG 408 / METR 408 / NRES 408 / WATS 408	Microclimate: The Biological Environment
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PLAS 411	Crop Genetic Engineering
PLAS 412	Crop and Weed Genetics
BIOS 368	Plants in Human Medicine: Biological, Social, and Ethical Dimensions
PLAS 221	Plant Propagation
NRES 406 / PLAS 406	Plant Ecophysiology: Theory and Practice
PLPT 369 / BIOS 369	Introductory Plant Pathology

Plant and Food System Management

PLAS 204	Resource-Efficient Crop Management
PLAS 240 / RNGE 240	Forage Crop and Pasture Management
or PLAS 227	Introductory Turfgrass Management
PLAS 405	Crop Management Strategies (ACE 10)
or PLAS 435	Agroecology
NRES 435	
PLAS 426 / NRES 426	Invasive Plants
PLAS 437	Animal, Food and Industrial Uses of Grain
PLAS 438	Producing Grain for Animal, Food and Industrial Uses
ENTO 115 / BIOS 115 & ENTO 116 / BIOS 116	Insect Biology and Insect Identification
FDST 205	Food Composition and Analysis
PLAS 306	Greenhouse Practices and Management
PLAS 352	Production and Physiology of Horticultural Crops
PLAS 355	Perennial, Pot and Bedding Plant Production Laboratory
PLAS 362	Nursery Crop Production

Credit Hours Subtotal: 27-28

Electives

Select 10-11 credits 10-11

Credit Hours Subtotal: 10-11

Total Credit Hours 37-39

Additional Major Requirements

Grade Rules

C- and D Grades

A grade of C or better is required in all courses (except free electives) in the major or minor.

Pass/No Pass

Students in plant biology may not take any of the core or option courses required for the degree Pass/No Pass except for the Exploring Plant Biology and Career Experience courses.

Program Assessment. To gauge the effectiveness of this program, students will be required to start and maintain an experiential portfolio throughout their program and complete an assessment survey.

Requirements for Minor Offered by Department

Requirements for the minor include a minimum of 19 hours of coursework with a minimum of 7 hours at the 300 level or above.

Requirements

PLAS 278	Botany	4
PLAS 325	Introductory Plant Physiology	4
PLAS 131 & PLAS 132 or PLAS 131 & PLAS 133	Plant Science and Agronomic Plant Science Laboratory Plant Science and Horticultural Plant Science Laboratory	4
Credit Hours Subtotal:		12

Focus

Select one focus from the following: 7-8

Biotechnology Focus

PLAS 215 Genetics
or BIOS 206 General Genetics

Select any 300- or 400-level course listed under the Plant Biology Major–Biotechnology Option

Ecology and Management Focus

NRES 220 Principles of Ecology
NRES 222 Ecology Laboratory

Select any 300- or 400-level course listed under the Plant Biology Major–Ecology & Management Option

Credit Hours Subtotal: 7

Total Credit Hours 19

PLPT 110 Fantastic Fungi - The Fatal and the Friendly

Description: A survey of the impact of fungi on human history and welfare. Topics include: fungi as agents of plant and human diseases; fungal toxins that impact food safety and indoor air quality; decay and decomposition; fungi as food and fermenters; medicinal fungi and metabolites; and mycorrhizae, mutualism and biodiversity.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 210 Plant Pathogens and Disease

Prerequisites: PLAS 131, BIOS 101, ENTO 115, or LIFE 120.

Description: Introduction to fungi, bacteria, nematodes and viruses that cause plant diseases. The impact that plant diseases can have on society and the environment. Strategies used in managing plant diseases in agricultural and landscape environments.

Credit Hours: 2

Max credits per semester: 2

Max credits per degree: 2

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 270 Biological Invaders

Crosslisted with: PLAS 270, NRES 270

Prerequisites: 3 hrs biological sciences.

Description: Impact of exotic species and invasive organisms: agricultural and medical emerging disease; predicting biological invasions; biological control; regulatory, monitoring, and control efforts; ecological impact.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 369 Introductory Plant Pathology

Crosslisted with: BIOS 369

Prerequisites: PLAS 131 or LIFE 120 and 120L

Description: Relation of plant disease to crop production, the environment, and society. Organisms that cause disease and their interactions with plants. Strategies for plant disease management.

Credit Hours: 3

Max credits per semester: 3

Max credits per degree: 3

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 369L Introductory Plant Pathology Lab

Prerequisites: Must enroll in both PLPT 369 (lecture) and PLPT 369L (lab)

Description: Optional lab for PLPT 369.

Credit Hours: 1

Max credits per semester: 1

Max credits per degree: 1

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 414 Turfgrass Disease Management

Crosslisted with: AGRO 814, HORT 814, PLPT 814, PLAS 414, TLMT 814

Prerequisites: BIOS/PLPT 369 or one semester of introductory plant pathology.

Description: Pathogens, epidemiology, and control of diseases specific to turfgrass.

Credit Hours: 1

Max credits per semester: 1

Max credits per degree: 1

Grading Option: Graded with Option

PLPT 415 Corn Diseases

Crosslisted with: PLPT 815

Prerequisites: PLPT 210 or PLPT 369 or equivalent

Notes: Taught online only. This is an 8-week mini-course.

Description: Introduction to the important diseases affecting corn (maize) in Nebraska and other areas of the United States. Pathogen biology, favorable conditions, disease diagnosis based on symptomatology and management strategies are emphasized

Credit Hours: 1

Max credits per semester: 1

Max credits per degree: 1

Grading Option: Graded

PLPT 418 Microbial Genetics & Genomics**Crosslisted with:** PLPT 818, MBIO 418**Prerequisites:** BIOS 206 or PLAS 215.**Notes:** BIOS 312 recommended.**Description:** Inheritance, exchange, and regulation of genes in prokaryotic microorganisms: gene structure and function; gene transfer and the elements (plasmids, phages, and transposons) involved; DNA mutations, repair, and genetic analysis; genome sequencing, microbial genome databases, and global gene expression analysis.**Credit Hours:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 3**Grading Option:** Graded**PLPT 495 Internship in Plant Pathology****Prerequisites:** Junior standing.**Description:** Experience in a work place setting that is directly related to Plant Pathology.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 5**Grading Option:** Pass No Pass**PLPT 496 Independent Study****Prerequisites:** Advanced approval of the plan of study and permission.**Description:** Research, literature review, extension of course work, or preparation of teaching materials.**Credit Hours:** 1-5**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 5**Max credits per degree:** 5**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**PLPT 498 Independent Research****Prerequisites:** Permission.**Description:** Independent research in areas of plant pathology.**Credit Hours:** 1-3**Min credits per semester:** 1**Max credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per degree:** 6**Grading Option:** Graded with Option**PLPT 499H Honors Thesis****Prerequisites:** Admission to the University Honors Program and permission**Notes:** AGRI 299H recommended**Description:** Conduct a scholarly research project and write a University Honors Program or undergraduate thesis.**Credit Hours:** 3-6**Min credits per semester:** 3**Max credits per semester:** 6**Max credits per degree:** 6**Grading Option:** Graded**PLEASE NOTE**

This document represents a sample 4-year plan for degree completion with this major. Actual course selection and sequence may vary and should be discussed individually with your college or department academic advisor. Advisors also can help you plan other experiences to enrich your undergraduate education such as internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, learning communities, and service learning and community-based learning.

Plant Biology - Biotechnology

Plant Biology - Ecology & Management Career Information

The following represents a sample of the internships, jobs and graduate school programs that current students and recent graduates have reported.

Transferable Skills

- Communicate results of scientific experiments to scientific and non-scientific audiences
- Apply mathematical and scientific skills to solve real-world problems
- Make predictions using mathematical, statistical, and scientific modeling methods
- Define problems and identify causes
- Understand and use proper laboratory and technical skills and instruments
- Collaborate with a team to develop solutions
- Confidently navigate complex, ambiguous projects and environments
- Design and implement research experiments
- Document and replicate processes and procedures

Jobs of Recent Graduates

- North American Trait Integration Breeder, Monsanto - Chesterfield, MO
- Plant Protection Technician, USDA - Lincoln, NE
- Data Analyst, Zoex Corporation - Houston, TX
- Associate Sales Manager, Theisen Seed LLC - Atkinson, NE
- Distance Education Instructor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Site Manager, Sustainable Agriculture Education - Berkeley, CA
- Groundskeeper, Burr Oak Lodge - Eagle, NE
- Graduate Research Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE

Internships

- Intern, DuPont Pioneer - Johnston, IA
- Research Assistant, Plant Pathology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Cover Crop Research Intern, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Research Intern, Nebraska Forest Service - Lincoln NE
- Intern, Grassland Ecology - Wood River, NE
- Pioneer Sales Associate Intern, Theisen Seed LLC - Atkinson, NE
- Crop Production Intern, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Research Intern, Molecular Plant Physiology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE

Graduate & Professional Schools

- Ph.D., Genetics, Iowa State University - Ames, IA
- Ph.D., Evolutionary Ecology, Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO
- Ph.D., Plant Breeding and Genetics, Purdue University - Lafayette, IN
- Ph.D., Entomology, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, AR

- Ph.D., Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Master's in Agronomy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Master's in Plant Breeding and Genetics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Master's in Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Master's in Entomology and Plant Pathology, Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO
- Master's in Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Lincoln, NE
- Ph.D., Horticulture, University of Nebraska Lincoln - Lincoln, NE