

ENTOMOLOGY, PLANT PATHOLOGY AND WEED SCIENCE

Undergraduate Program Information

Specific courses that meet these and the university general education requirements and additional courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics and seminar are included below in departmental requirements. A total of 120 credits are required for graduation. At least 48 credits must be 300-level courses and above. Schedules in specific semesters will be developed with the help of a student's academic advisor.

Graduate Program Information

The complexity of managing insects, plant diseases, and weeds is increasing environmental concerns, costs, and regulations requiring an integrated approach to management strategies. Future professionals in integrated pest management will be ecologically oriented, trained to manipulate biological and cultural technologies while minimizing chemical control options. The Master of Science degree program in agricultural biology is designed to produce graduates with the academic and research background needed to facilitate effective, innovative, and environmentally sound protection of plants and animals from a wide and varied spectrum of pests. Students will be prepared for careers in research, extension, teaching, private consulting, industry, and government or to continue in a broad range of Ph.D. programs. Specific opportunities will include positions as agricultural consultants, technical and sales representatives for industry, state departments of agriculture and USDA specialists, agricultural extension agents, and industry research and environmental technicians. There is currently a strong need for MS graduates trained in these areas, and the demand is expected to increase dramatically.

Students may wish to concentrate their graduate program in entomology, plant pathology, or weed science, or conversely may wish to be broadly trained in all three pest-management disciplines. Most students will be expected to complete a thesis. A non-thesis option is available, depending on prior training and experience and subject to approval by the department head. A nonthesis research option requires completion of a research paper, suitable as judged by the student's graduate committee, for journal publication. Completion of an undergraduate degree essentially equivalent to that offered by the department is required for admission to the MS graduate program. Qualifications for admission will be reviewed by the departmental Graduate Admissions committee. Prospective graduate students must have at least a 3.0 undergraduate GPA, complete the GRE, and submit an official transcript, a letter of intent and three letters of recommendation.