

Agricultural and Extension Education

A degree in agricultural and extension education enables students to choose from many career options. Three options are available to students.

The first option is focused on teaching in public schools. Agricultural science teacher licensure is available in conjunction with other subject areas.

Extension education is a second option. Professionals in Extension are employees of The Ohio State University and give direction and teach in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, youth development, family and consumer sciences, and community development. County extension faculty teach in informal settings and work closely with the community.

The leadership option is designed for students who want to combine their agricultural knowledge and teaching skills in business, industry and organizations. Personnel training and management are among the positions available to students in this option.

Pursuing Agricultural and Extension Education at Ohio State

All freshman applicants to Ohio State are considered within a competitive admissions policy. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Upon admission to the university, students are then admitted into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Once admitted into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, students can declare a major in agricultural and extension education.

In addition to the requirements for admission to Ohio State, students interested in any area of agricultural and extension education should be well-rounded, with experiences in leadership activities and working with people. Good interpersonal skills are an asset in the program and later employment.

Acceptance into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is required prior to declaring a major in agricultural and extension education. Once a student has been admitted into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the student should meet with the coordinating advisor for the Department of Human and Community Resource Development. Many students enroll directly into the college and the Department of Human and Community Resource Development.

At the meeting with the coordinating advisor, the student determines which option within agricultural and extension education to pursue. The student, along with the coordinating advisor, will declare the major and option, and determine which minor will best fit the career objective of the student.

Agricultural and Extension Education Requirements

Students majoring in agricultural and extension education typically take courses in animal sciences, production agriculture, natural resource management, crop science, plant health and protection, plant improvement, agribusiness, horticulture, life sciences, agricultural systems management, and soil resources.

In addition to agriculture courses, students majoring in agricultural and extension education complete courses in psychology, learning processes, teaching methods, curriculum and program development, and youth and adult education. Students complete two field-based experiences in schools, in extension, or in agribusiness, depending upon the chosen option. Field experiences allow students to apply what they have learned in a real-life setting and to develop professional skills in the teaching and learning process.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Internships in agricultural and extension education are available in a public school setting, extension education setting, or business and industry setting. Typically, students will participate in at least two internships prior to graduation. One internship is for a two-week period of time, or 80 hours, and the second internship is for a ten-week period, or 400 hours.

For more information, check these web sites:

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences:
cfaes.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Human & Community Resource Development:
www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~hcrd
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Agricultural and Extension Education. Consult the departmental web site, www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~hcrd, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Agriculture Survey	1
Rural Sociology	5
Agriculture courses	10
Psychology	5
Microeconomics	5
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	10
GEC (math)	4
Total hours	45

Sophomore Year:

GEC second writing course	5
Agriculture courses	8
Data Analysis	5
Teaching and Learning	5
Oral Expression	4
GEC (arts and literature)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	10
Total hours	47

Junior Year:

Agriculture courses	20
Educational Foundations	3
Instructional Media	3
Psychology of Learning	5
Teaching Methods	5
GEC (history)	5
GEC (natural sciences)	5
Total hours	46

Senior Year:

Agriculture courses	15
Curricular Planning	5
Field Experience	15
Capstone in the major	5
GEC (contemporary issues)	5
Total hours	45

Honors & Scholars Opportunities

Incoming first year students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class with an ACT composite of 30 or higher, or combined SAT Critical Reading and Math scores of 1340 or higher, are offered admission to the University Honors program. The Honors program is designed to challenge superior ability students. It is based on the concepts of flexibility in course selection, accelerated or advanced classes, and an honors research or scholarly project. Course flexibility enables the honors student to achieve breadth and depth in the academic program and to define academic growth in a more personal way. Honors program students are allowed priority scheduling opportunities. Students who complete the Honors Program satisfactorily, meeting all requirements, will graduate "with distinction" in their area of specialization. Enrolled students may also apply to the Honors program by submitting an Individualized Honors Curriculum after earning at least a 3.5 CPHR on 30 hours at Ohio State. Student must also maintain at least a 3.5 CPHR to remain in honors.

Career Prospects in Agricultural and Extension Education

As agricultural and extension education majors, students have many career options. A few of the possibilities include:

- high school teacher of agriculture
- two- or four-year agriculture college instructor
- agricultural extension educator
- 4-H youth development specialist
- farm business planning and analysis instructor
- adult education instructor
- agriculture organization personnel trainer
- agriculture industry personnel trainer
- farm manager
- sales consultant
- sales representative
- public relations specialist

Beginning salaries for agricultural and extension education majors range from \$24,500 to \$34,000 per year, depending on the position, candidates' skills, and other factors determined by various employers.

Teaching Credentials

The State of Ohio requires all entry-year teachers to be licensed in Ohio. Successful completion of the PRAXIS II examination is required prior to initial licensure. In addition, successful completion of the PRAXIS III assessment during the first-year of teaching is required for licensure continuance.

Revised November 2008. For the most up-to-date information on the agricultural and extension education program, please visit www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~hcrd.

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