

Turfgrass Management

Turfgrass management involves the science and business of utilizing turfgrass in primarily recreational settings. A large majority of these recreational settings are golf courses.

Turfgrass managers must know the basic science of agronomy and must be able to provide a beautiful landscape. Government and societal forces demand that they preserve and enhance the environment and not allow it to be destroyed.

At the same time, turfgrass managers must also be able to control weeds and pests and select, operate, and maintain equipment. They must be able to prepare and follow a budget. In many cases, these managers are responsible for hiring, training, and supervising a competent staff.

Pursuing Turfgrass Management at Ohio State ATI

Students who are considering turfgrass management as a major will benefit from a good background in biology, chemistry, math, and written and oral communication. Industry experience such as summer work on a golf course is highly recommended. Vocational horticulture classes can also be beneficial.

Students interested in pursuing the degree in turfgrass management enter directly into the program upon completion of their admission requirements. All applicants are strongly encouraged to arrange a campus visit to become better acquainted with the program.

General Degree Requirements

The turfgrass management curriculum is predominately centered on the golf course management industry. In an Associate of Applied Science program, approximately half of the course requirements are in the general studies areas of written and oral communication, math, natural science, social science, and business.

Technical courses make up approximately half of the turfgrass management degree program. All turfgrass students must successfully complete two courses related to golf course management. Many students enjoy the fact that technical course requirements begin in the first quarter of enrollment. Areas of emphasis in technical courses include turfgrass management, turf practices, irrigation, golf course organization and management, plant materials, pest control, mechanics, and equipment operation.

To obtain Associate of Applied Science in Turfgrass Management, students must complete a minimum of 109 quarter credit hours with a cumulative point-hour ratio of 2.0 or above. At least 63 quarter credit hours must be completed in technical studies, and a minimum of 47 quarter credit hours must be completed in basic and general studies.

Students in the turfgrass management program are required to complete a course called practicum. Practicum is supervised work experience on campus, which allows students to improve skills and apply classroom learning. Practicum work experiences for turfgrass students may include equipment operation, irrigation, construction, and maintenance.

Turfgrass Management Requirements

Technical requirements include:

- Turfgrass Management – one course
- Soils - one course
- Irrigation and Drainage – one course
- Turf Practices - one course
- Mechanics - two courses
- Landscape Plants and Materials - two courses
- Weed Control - one course
- Arboriculture - one course
- Golf Course Management – one course
- Plant Diseases - one course
- Insect Control - one course

Internships and Industry Activities

Students in the turfgrass management program must successfully complete a 16-week internship of full-time employment at an approved turfgrass management facility. Ohio State ATI works with students to find appropriate internship positions in both Ohio and other states. Internship is a course for which students enroll and pay tuition. Students are paid for their employment, graded on their job performance, and awarded academic credit for completing the course.

Career Prospects in Turfgrass Management

A variety of management and technical positions are available for individuals educated and trained in turfgrass management. Employment opportunities exist with golf courses and country clubs, parks, lawn care firms, and sod farms.

Turfgrass management graduates are employed as golf course superintendents, assistant golf course

For more information, check these web sites:

Turfgrass Management: www.ati.osu.edu/programs

Ohio State ATI: www.ati.osu.edu

Ohio State: www.osu.edu

Admissions: www.ATIadmissions.osu.edu

Visit ATI: www.ati.osu.edu/visitation_days.html

Curriculum Sample

First Year:

Autumn Quarter

General Botany	5
First-Year Written Composition	3
Technical Mathematics I	5
Personal and Career Orientation	1
Introduction to Golf Course Management	1
Introduction to Turfgrass Management	3
Practicum	1

Winter Quarter

Introduction to Microcomputer Applications	1
Introduction to Soils and Soil Management	4
Engine Basics	4
Introductory Chemistry I	4
Technical Reporting	3
Social science or humanities elective	3

Spring Quarter

Irrigation and Drainage for Landscape, Nursery, and Turf	3
Essentials of Oral Communication	3
Turf Practices	3
Occupational Internship	3

Summer Quarter

Occupational Internship	6
Total hours	56

Second Year:

Autumn Quarter

General Economics	5
Introductory Chemistry II	4
Social science or humanities elective	3
Landscape Horticulture Plants & Materials I	3
General and Applied Entomology	3

Winter Quarter

Human Resource Management	4
Landscape, Nursery, & Turfgrass Equipment	4
Pesticides and Their Use	3
Golf Course Organization & Management	3
Plant Diseases of Ornamentals and Turf	3

Spring Quarter

Herbaceous Plants	3
Principles of Weed Sciences in Horticulture Crops	4
Social science or humanities elective	3
Total hours	45

superintendents, golf course maintenance specialists, grounds maintenance managers, lawn care technicians, and sales representatives for golf course and turf management supplies.

Employment opportunities in the turfgrass and golf course industries are very strong, and this situation is expected to continue for several years.

Beginning salaries in the turfgrass industry range from \$19,000 to \$26,000 annually, depending on a candidate's previous work experience, skills, and other factors, which may be determined by the employer. There are many opportunities to relocate for graduates interested in doing so.

Graduates of the turfgrass management program at Ohio State ATI have been employed at many golf courses recognized as being among the most outstanding in the country. Ohio State ATI graduates are currently employed at Firestone Country Club, Inverness Club, The Golf Club at New Albany, and Canterbury Country Club, all of which are in Ohio; Cherry Hills in Colorado; Interlachen Country Club in Minnesota; Pleasant Valley Country Club in Massachusetts; Baltimore Country Club in Maryland; and Old Marsh Country Club and John's Island Resort in Florida, among many others. There are also several graduates at international locations.

Related Programs

Because of related yet diverse interests, some students choose to pursue dual majors during their enrollment at Ohio State ATI. Other students may select additional technical courses not required in their major without necessarily completing the requirements for a second degree. Either choice can serve to broaden students' educational experience and enhance their employment opportunities.

Ohio State ATI also offers an Associate of Science degree in Horticultural Science. This degree option allows students to begin their course work toward a Bachelor of Science. Students who pursue this degree at Ohio State ATI can meet a portion of the requirements for a bachelor's degree at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

In addition, this degree contains the transfer module, a common set of general education courses, which apply to bachelor's degrees at other colleges in Ohio.

About Ohio State ATI

Ohio State ATI, located in Wooster, Ohio, is ranked number one in the nation in the awarding of associate degrees in agriculture and related sciences and is the associate-degree granting unit of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Twenty-five technical programs leading to the Associate of Applied Science or Associate of Science degree are offered at the Wooster campus. Two Certificate of Competency programs, in hydraulic service and repair and commercial turf equipment, are also offered. Within four months of graduation, 99% of Ohio State ATI graduates are employed or pursuing bachelor's degrees.

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Contact information:

The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute
Office of Admissions | 1328 Dover Road | Wooster, Ohio, 44691-4000
(330) 264-3911 ext. 1327 | Toll free in Ohio 1-800-OH-STATE