

Turfgrass Science

Turfgrass Science is an integrated program that includes both basic and applied sciences to study the grasses used to enhance our environment. Turf is important from functional, recreational, and ornamental standpoints. It reduces glare, noise, air pollution, heat buildup, and visual pollution; provides recreational benefits to outdoor sporting events, such as golf, football, baseball, and soccer; and creates an aesthetically attractive surrounding for homes, buildings, and cities.

By employing scientific principles and technical applications, turfgrass scientists develop management programs for different turf situations. The principles of biology, chemistry, and physics provide the base upon which the programs are developed, while the specific knowledge gained in crop, soil, and turfgrass science provides the mechanisms for managing and maintaining turf.

Pursuing Turfgrass Science at Ohio State (Columbus)

Students interested in turfgrass science as a major should develop a high school program emphasizing the sciences. All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicants' high school preparation program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT.

Admitted student who indicate their major as Turfgrass Science on their application are directly enrolled into the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences as a first quarter freshman. One-on-one advising by faculty is a hallmark of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Each turfgrass science student is assigned a faculty advisor from the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science to assist the student in program planning and is available for academic consultation. Students take a survey course in their first quarter to gain familiarity with academic procedures, resources, requirements, and career opportunities.

Turfgrass Science Requirements

Required courses include: Principles of Turfgrass Selection and Management, Turfgrass Management and Science, Turfgrass Seminar, Crop Science, Soil Science, Weed Science, Issues in Crop/Turfgrass Science, and Internship.

For more information, check these web sites:

Ohio State Turf Program: hcs.osu.edu/turf
 College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences:
cfaes.osu.edu

Students select an additional 24-34 credit hours in professional support, including Turfgrass and Ornamental Insects, Turfgrass Diseases, Urban and Sportsturf Soils, Equipment Maintenance, Agricultural Business, Climatology, Plant Pathology, and Plant Physiology. Additional electives to complete a minimum total of the 183 hours required for graduation are selected in consultation with the student's advisor to fit the needs of the student. A wide array of minors is available to student majoring in turfgrass science. The two most popular minors are agribusiness and plant pathology.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Study Abroad Opportunities – An international experience provides an education one does not receive in a classroom or from a textbook, and is an invaluable aid in today's global market. While abroad, students complete three courses for fifteen hours of credit that may be applied towards a minor, free electives or General Education Requirements. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences currently sponsors opportunities for students to study abroad in Australia, the Dominican Republic, China, England, South Africa, Poland, Russia, Mexico and the Czech Republic.

Student Organizations – The Turfgrass Club provides students interested in a turfgrass management career the opportunity to interact professionally and socially with other students, both from Ohio State and around the nation, as well as industry and academic professionals. Each year the GCSAA student chapter engages in a variety of activities and community service projects. The group also travels to the national GCSAA conference and the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation conference.

Honors & Scholars Programs

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

Ohio State: osu.edu
 Plant Science Careers: enPlant.osu.edu
 Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Turfgrass Science. 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 Turfgrass Science. Consult the departmental web site, hcs.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

Agriculture Survey	1
History	5
Chemistry sequence	10
Freshman English	5
College Algebra	4
Introductory Biology	5
GEC (social science)	5
Introductory Sociology	5
GEC (arts and literature)	5
Total hours	45

Sophomore Year:

Science of Growing Plants	5
Crop Development	4
GEC (natural sciences)	5
GEC (arts and literature)	5
Microeconomics	5
Soil Science	3
Agricultural Communication	5
Basic Microbiology	5
Second Writing Course	5
Total hours	42

Junior Year:

Turfgrass Selection & Management	4
Turfgrass Management & Science	4
Weed Science	4
Seminar	1
Plant Pathology (minor)	8
Contemporary Issues	5
Entomology	4
Urban and Sports Turf	3
Data Analysis	5
Plant Physiology	5
HCS Elective	5
Total hours	48

Senior Year:

Internship	5
Issues in Crop/Turf Science	5
Plant Pathology (Minor)	12
HCS Electives	10
Electives	16
Total hours	48

to define academic growth in a more personal way. Honors program students are given priority scheduling. Students completing honors courses have these designated on their transcripts with an "H" before the course, and those 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 Turfgrass Science

Many career opportunities are available for the turfgrass science graduate in a large and growing turfgrass industry. Primary positions include golf course superintendents and assistants, athletic field managers, grounds maintenance managers, lawn care operators, and sod producers. Graduates may also choose careers in product development or sales with the seed, fertilizer, and chemical industries. In addition, there is a need for masters- and doctorate-level professionals interested in teaching and conducting research at colleges or universities.

Beginning annual salaries for turfgrass science graduates averaged \$30,093 in 2006. Salaries vary depending on location, the candidate's skill, and previous job-related experience.

More About Turfgrass Science

All turfgrass science majors are required to go on an internship locally, nationally, or internationally. Turfgrass science faculty provides counseling and advice on choosing an appropriate internship. In addition to a formal internship, part-time employment is available in the campus area. World-famous golf courses and major turfgrass companies are located in the Columbus area.

Revised July 2007. For the most up-to-date information on the turfgrass science program, please visit hcs.osu.edu.

Contact information:

Horticulture and Crop Science | 2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1086 | (614) 292-2001 | 1-866-enPlant