

# College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources

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## [www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/)

Academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources open doors to exciting and rewarding career and professional opportunities. Agriculture is the foundation upon which NDSU was established in the late 1800s. Today, the college builds on that tradition with teaching, research, and outreach that serves the interests of students and the needs of employers, fuels an economic engine critical to the United States, and improves the lives of people throughout the region and the world.

## Mission and Values

The college provides relevant and challenging academic programs that prepare students to capitalize on current and future opportunities. Programs are based on fundamental sciences and technologies applied to agricultural life and environmental disciplines as well as related social and economic fields.

NDSU Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources is taking its place as one of the nation's leaders. Our commitment to excellence has inspired new courses of study and has built ongoing partnerships with agricultural industries and government agencies.

Demand for graduates with expertise in the college's many disciplines continues to grow rapidly. Career opportunities for men and women are expanding into new areas made possible by new technologies and a more comprehensive global perspective.

Food safety and security, biotechnology and genetics, sustainable production and land stewardship, bio-energy and bio-products, and human/animal health are emerging national priorities. Our faculty are at the forefront of these and similar critical issues. Our students can engage their interests while gaining valuable hands-on learning experiences in the field, laboratories, and through interactions with business partners across the region.

## Agricultural Education

NDSU is designated by the State Board for Career and Technical Education as the recognized institution for preparing teachers of Agricultural Education. While the degree program in Agricultural Education is offered by the College of Human Development and Education, students may pursue their degree in Agricultural Education by doing a major in General Agriculture (College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources) and a degree in Agricultural Education (College of Human Development and Education). Pursuit of both majors should not increase the total number of credits needed to obtain the degree. Generally, students will start with the major in General Agriculture and add the major in Agricultural Education prior to requesting admittance into the Teacher Education program. The adviser in Agricultural Education will generally serve as the academic adviser from matriculation to completion so there is not a need to change advisers when the major in Agricultural Education is added. See the School of Education (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/departments/education/>) section in this Bulletin under Agricultural Education for more information.

## Interdisciplinary Studies and Affiliated Programs

The college contributes strongly to interdisciplinary studies in natural resources management, food safety, logistics management, and several graduate programs. A major in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering is offered by the College of Engineering (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/colleges/engineering/>). The College of Human Sciences and Education (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/colleges/human-sciences-education/>) offers a major in Agricultural Education and the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/colleges/arts-humanities-social-sciences/>) offers a major in Agricultural Communication. These majors rely on the expertise and resources from the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.

## Pre-Veterinary Medicine

NDSU offers excellent programs that prepare students for application to a college of veterinary medicine. All veterinary schools stress the importance of high scholastic standing and judge applicants on academic preparation, knowledge of the veterinary profession, experience and character.

Because the number of students admitted to veterinary schools is limited, prospective students should check the specific requirements of the college of their choice well in advance to make certain that preparatory work is appropriate.

Pre-veterinary medicine is not a specific major, and students are encouraged to pursue a major in their area of interest while at NDSU. In addition, students preparing for application to a veterinary school should consult with a pre-veterinary medicine advisor. Although a student may pursue a wide variety of majors while completing the pre-veterinary requirements, we recommend a major in Microbiology (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/programs-study/undergraduate/microbiology/>) or Animal Science (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2021-22/programs-study/undergraduate/animal-science/>) with the Animal Biomedical Sciences option.

Students who are admitted to and plan to enroll in a Veterinary Medical College prior to earning a baccalaureate degree from NDSU should consult with their academic adviser for options on transferring veterinary medicine credit back to NDSU to fulfill bachelor's degree requirements.

## **Graduate and Professional Schools**

The college's academic programs are excellent preparation for continued formal education in graduate school programs and in professional schools offering degrees in business, law, medicine or veterinary medicine. For more information on graduate school opportunities at NDSU see the Graduate School (<https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/>) web site.

## **Scholarships**

Students in the college who have selected one of the college's majors may be eligible for scholarships through their major department and/or the dean's office. Scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated excellence in their courses. About one-third of students in the college receive scholarships. Students are encouraged to contact their major department or the college web site for scholarship opportunities (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/scholarships/>).

## **Student Organizations**

Nearly 30 agriculture-related clubs and organizations (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/student-organizations/>) provide opportunities for students to develop leadership, teamwork, interpersonal and communication skills.

## **Field Experience, Internships, Cooperative Education**

Students gain practical experience and credits by enrolling in a supervised field experience (internship) offered through individual departments. Another option, offered by the Career Center (<https://www.ndsu.edu/career/>), provides undergraduate and graduate students with career-enhancing experiences and academic credits through the Cooperative Education program (<https://career.ndsu.edu/internship-program/>). The number of cooperative education credits allowed for graduation varies by program, but should not exceed six for any program in the college.

## **International Study**

The college encourages students to gain international perspectives in their studies. Besides study abroad, students might consider adding the international studies major to their program in the college. Additional information is available from departmental offices or through the university's Office of International Student and Study Abroad Services (<https://www.ndsu.edu/international/>).