

Plant Sciences Doctorate

Department Information

- **Program Information:**
ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/plant-sciences (<http://ndsu.edu/programs/graduate/plant-sciences/>)
- **Department Web Site:**
ndsu.edu/agriculture/plant-sciences (<http://ndsu.edu/agriculture/plant-sciences/>)
- **Application Deadline:**
International applications must be completed with the Graduate School by October 1 for spring, March 1 for summer, and May 1 for fall. • Domestic applications should be completed with the Graduate School at least 2 months prior to the start of classes.
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL iBT 71, IELTS 6; Duolingo 105

Apply Now (https://ndsugrad.my.site.com/Application/TX_SiteLogin/?startURL=/Application/TargetX_Portal__PB)

Code	Title	Credits
M.S. (thesis option) to Ph.D.		60
Required Courses		
PLSC 724	Field Design I (if not part of M.S. Must earn B or better)	3
PLSC 790		2
PLSC 892		2
PLSC 899		20
Additional didactic credits ** (12 credits must be 700-level)		24
Students focusing on Plant Breeding and Genetics must take and earn a B or better in		
PLSC 611	Genomics	
PLSC 631	Intermediate Genetics	
PLSC 718	Genetics & Plant Improvement	
Additional credits		9

Code	Title	Credits
M.S. (thesis option) to Ph.D. - Plant Breeding and Genetics Option		60
600 - 800 level graduate courses including:		36
PLSC 611	Genomics	
PLSC 631	Intermediate Genetics	
PLSC 718	Genetics & Plant Improvement	
PLSC 724	Field Design I (if not part of master's degree)	
PLSC 731	Plant Molecular Genetics	
PLSC 751	Advanced Plant Genetics	
PLSC 776	Advanced Plant Breeding	
PLSC 782	Population and Quantitative Genetics	
PLSC 790		2
PLSC 892		2
PLSC 899		20

** Didactic credits are graduate courses numbered 601-689, 691; 700-789, 791; and 800-889, 891.

Admission and Application Requirements

Graduate School admission and application requirements are found on the Admission Information (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/graduate/admission-information/>) page. In addition to these requirements, the following are required:

- Additionally, for the B.S. to Ph.D. in Plant Sciences, at the time of application, the applicant must:
 - Have or be working toward a B.S. degree in the same or a closely-related field
 - Have a cumulative GPA of 3.70 or greater
- Applicants interested in the B.S. to Ph.D. track must:
 - Use the Statement of Purpose portion of the application to succinctly describe qualifications for applying to the Ph.D. program as an undergraduate student, including describing preparation for an advanced degree in the chosen area of study and detailing a focused research interest
 - Use the Statement of Purpose to identify a Department of Plant Sciences faculty member who has shown definite, written interest in serving as advisor and providing financial and academic support of Ph.D. studies
 - Support the Statement of Purpose with a CV listing previous academic and research experiences