

# Plant Sciences

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## Department Information

- **Department Head:**  
Richard Horsley, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**  
Marisol Berti, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
166 Loftsgard Hall
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-7971
- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/](http://www.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/) (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/>)
- **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., M.S.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL iBT 71, IELTS 6; Duolingo 105

## Admission Requirements

Plant Science graduate programs are open to all qualified graduates of universities and colleges of recognized standing. Applications must be submitted directly to the NDSU Graduate School. To be admitted with full status to the program, the applicant must meet Graduate School and department admission requirements.

B.S. to M.S. and M.S. to Ph.D. Eligibility:

For program admission requirements visit <https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/apply> (<https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/apply/>)

B.S. to Ph.D. Eligibility:

For admission requirements visit <https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/apply> (<https://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool/apply/>)

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
- Request three letters of support to accompany the application, two of which will be written by persons able to specifically provide support of the student's potential to complete a Ph.D. program and why the B.S. to Ph.D. track is warranted

## Financial Assistance

Correspondence with one or more departmental faculty members before and during the application process is not compulsorily but is encouraged. Applicants will not be considered without a department faculty member who has agreed to serve as the major advisor and can offer a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA). To read more about our research teams and find faculty contact information, please visit <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/academics/academic-units/plant-sciences/research> (<https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/academics/academic-units/plant-sciences/research/>).

A twenty-hour (half-time) GRA is provided to each accepted M.S. and Ph.D. student based on scholarship and potential to undertake advanced study and research. The annual stipend varies based on the research project and will not be less than \$24,000 annually for a M.S. or \$28,000 annually for a Ph.D. position.

In addition to the stipend, graduate assistants who meet the hours worked and training requirements each semester receive a graduate tuition waiver. Students are responsible for differential tuition, student and course fees, and tuition for non-graduate level credits taken.

A limited number of Ph.D. Graduate Fellowships are available.

The Plant Science program has numerous annual scholarships ranging from \$400 to \$2,200 each for outstanding Plant Sciences graduate students.