SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS MAJOR (B.A.)

https://cansa.unh.edu/agriculture-nutrition-food-systems/program/ba/
sustainable-agriculture-food-systems-major

Description

The Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems B.A. provides students with a broad base of knowledge and experiences with modern agriculture and food systems. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems is an interdisciplinary field comprising the social, physical, and life sciences and beyond. Agriculture is key to solving many of the major challenges facing the world, such as producing food to meet the needs of an ever-growing population while conserving land, water, and soil resources.

Our students get hands-on experience in applied coursework, and we encourage our students to conduct research alongside faculty. Our students become practitioners and entrepreneurs of agricultural and food businesses, researchers and policy-makers at state/federal agencies and non-profit organizations, laboratory technicians, and agricultural educators. Some go on to obtain advanced degrees in the agricultural sciences.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Minimum Credit Requirement: 128 credits

Minimum Residency Requirement: 32 credits must be taken at UNH

Minimum GPA: 2.0 required for conferral*

Core Curriculum Required: Discovery & Writing Program Requirements

Foreign Language Requirement: Yes

All Major, Option and Elective Requirements as indicated.

*Major GPA requirements as indicated.

Major Requirements

The SAFS B.A. program structure includes FOUR major components: foundation courses, courses in a student-designed emphasis area, program elective courses, and a capstone. You must earn a minimum grade of C- in all courses required for the major.

Foundation courses include 36 credits, which satisfy 5 of the University Discovery requirements.

Student-Designed Emphasis courses include 20 credits that make up a cohesive emphasis or focus area. Courses may be selected from the List of Approved Program Electives, but do not need to be on that list. Each student will define their emphasis area in consultation with their advisor and submit it to the SAFS program committee for approval prior to the start of their 6th semester.

Program Elective courses include 16 credits, chosen from the List of Approved Program Elective courses.

A Capstone experience must take place during the senior year. There are two capstone options: SAFS 733 Advanced Topics in Sustainable Agriculture or ANSC 750 Collaborative Farm Design and Development. Your capstone MAY NOT be counted towards elective or emphasis credits.

Of the Student-Designed Emphasis and Program Elective courses, at least 16 credits (not counting the capstone) must be earned at the 600–700 level.

Approved Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANSC 421</td>
<td>Introduction to Animal Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 528</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EREC 525</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Applications</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 411</td>
<td>Introductory Chemistry for Life Sciences ¹</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CHEM 403</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EREC 411</td>
<td>Environmental and Resource Economics Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ECON 402</td>
<td>Principles of Economics (Micro)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NR 561</td>
<td>Studio Soils</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFS 405</td>
<td>Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFS 421</td>
<td>Introductory Horticulture</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFS 502</td>
<td>Agroecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFS 620</td>
<td>Food Systems &amp; Community Resilience</td>
<td>4</td>
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Student-Designed Emphasis Area

At least 20 credits, proposed using the emphasis area declaration form (see your advisor) at least 1 year prior to planned graduation date.

Program Electives

Select 16 credits from the approved electives list.

Senior Capstone

Select one from the following:

- ANSC 750 Collaborative Farm Design and Development
- or SAFS 733 Advanced Topics in Sustainable Agriculture

¹ Some courses (e.g. genetics, microbiology) require CHEM 403 and CHEM 404 as a prerequisite. If you intend to take these courses, you should take CHEM 403 rather than CHEM 411.
### University Requirements

In addition to meeting the SAFS major requirements, students must satisfy all University requirements including those that pertain to the minimum number of credits, grade-point average, writing-intensive courses, the Discovery Program, and foreign language (only for B.A. students).

### Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate a working understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of agriculture and food systems and the basic principles underpinning sustainability including: economic viability, environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and the trade-offs between competing metrics of sustainability.
- Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge, critical thinking and analysis, and effective written communication in a self-declared area of emphasis within the program.
- Students will gain an applied understanding of agriculture and food system sustainability by engaging in an experiential education opportunity.
- Students will be able to independently interpret, evaluate, and engage with research in the agricultural sciences, including its biological, physical, social, and/or economic aspects.