Horticulture, M.S.

The department provides graduate training leading to the master of science in horticulture. Each M.S. student will have a major advisor who will supervise their program of study and their thesis research. Specializations are available in several aspects of crop science: organic and sustainable horticulture, diversified crop production for urban and regional food systems, environmental impact of horticultural practices, environmental regulation of plant growth and development, plant breeding, biochemistry and molecular biology of horticultural plants, microculture and biotechnology, weed control and herbicide physiology, and biostatistics. Students have the opportunity to develop their research projects using vegetables, fruits, trees, ornamentals, specialty crops, or model species such as Arabidopsis thaliana.

The M.S. student’s thesis project will involve an in-depth mentored exploration of a research question and the development of a written thesis in conjunction with a graduate committee of three faculty members.

The department houses research labs, controlled environment chambers, and greenhouse facilities. Field-plot areas with associated storage and laboratory facilities are available at the UW–Madison Arboretum (https://arboretum.wisc.edu/), Horticulture Research Farm at Arlington (https://arlington.ars.wisc.edu/), and the Agriculture Research Stations (https://ars.wisc.edu/) managed by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at selected locations throughout the state. In conjunction with the farm at Sturgeon Bay, the world’s largest collection of tuber-bearing Solanums is maintained by the Inter-Regional Potato Introduction Project and is available for research use.

Admissions

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirments/ of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>September 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record</td>
<td>May be required in certain cases; consult program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examinations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirments/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirments/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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Letters of Recommendation Required

The department accepts applications for fall, spring, and summer entry. The applicant’s academic preparation should include fundamental courses in the plant sciences such as botany, bacteriology, genetics, and physiology, as well as courses in chemistry (general, organic, quantitative), physics, mathematics, and biochemistry. The academic average should be at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) with evidence of proficiency in subjects related to agriculture and plant sciences.

Application Deadlines

Spring entry: September 1
Summer entry: December 1
Fall entry: December 1

Application Checklist

A complete application should include the following items:

1. Graduate School Application and Application Fee
2. Supplementary Application: The supplementary application will appear as a part of the Graduate School’s electronic application once the applicant selects Horticulture.
3. Statement of Purpose: Your essay should be a concise description of your reasons for choosing to study horticulture at the University of Wisconsin. Please include your research interests and career goals as well as a description of your preparation for graduate study including relevant coursework, related employment, research experience, publications, presentations, awards, and honors.
4. Transcripts: We require all applicants to submit an unofficial transcript in PDF format to their online application. If an applicant is recommended for admission, then they will be required to submit their official transcript to the Graduate School. International academic records must be submitted in the original language and accompanied by an official English translation. Documents must be issued by the institution with an official seal/stamp and an official signature.
5. Three Letters of Recommendation
6. GRE Scores: GRE scores are not required for admission but are highly recommended. GRE scores are required for applicants who are interested in fellowships and other forms of financial support.
7. Proof of English Proficiency: Applicants whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must follow the Graduate School’s guidelines for proof of English proficiency.

Faculty Advisors

The Horticulture M.S. and Ph.D. programs do not support lab rotations. All students are admitted directly into a faculty member's lab. Thus, we strongly encourage applicants to contact faculty members who work in their areas of interest before and during the application and admissions process.

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further
funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

All applicants to the graduate program in Horticulture are automatically considered for financial support. There is no need to submit a separate application. Most of our students are supported through research assistantships, but additional sources of internal financial support include teaching assistantships, project assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

**MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

<table>
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<th>Mode of Instruction Definitions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Face to Face</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

- **Accelerated**: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.
- **Evening/Weekend**: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.
- **Face-to-Face**: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.
- **Hybrid**: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.
- **Online**: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
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<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>18 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (<a href="https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide">https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide</a>).</td>
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**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Departmental Requirements**

The specific program of study towards a master’s degree is developed by the student and the major professor. Considerable flexibility in the selection of courses is permitted to meet the needs and interests of the candidate. Students often complete the requirements for a master’s degree in one and a half years, and three years is usually considered the maximum time necessary.

- All students must have successfully completed 14 credits of Horticulture (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/hort/) courses and 11 credits of Botany (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/botany/) courses during their enrollment in the undergraduate and/or graduate program(s). No more than 3 credits of HORT 699 Special Problems may be counted towards this requirement.

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credits and 15 of these credits must be graduate level (up to 3 credits of 990 may be used to satisfy this 15 credit requirement, but HORT 699 Special Problems may not be used to satisfy this requirement). This requirement for 15 graduate-level credits can only be satisfied by classes taken while the student is enrolled in the master’s program.

- Students must satisfy the requirements listed in one of the three tracks listed below:
  - Track 1. The student must complete at least 30 credits while enrolled in Graduate School and write a master’s thesis that is acceptable to the student’s final examining committee.
  - Track 2. The student must complete at least 30 credits while enrolled in Graduate School.
  - Track 3. Master’s Degree in Horticulture with Emphasis in Organic Sustainable Production. Students must satisfy the specific course requirements outlined below. The student must also complete at least 30 credits while enrolled in Graduate School and write a master’s thesis that is acceptable to the student’s final examining committee.

**Organic Sustainable Production Emphasis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>F&amp;W ECOL/BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 460</td>
<td>General Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGROECOL 701</td>
<td>The Farm as Socio-Environmental Endeavor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGROECOL 702</td>
<td>The Multifunctionality of Agriculture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Horticulture (one course required)
Those courses are numbered 700 or above they may count toward the minimum graduate coursework requirement. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**PROBATION**

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

Every graduate student must have a faculty advisor (major professor) who is on the Horticulture faculty. The major professor advises the student about course work and supervises the student’s research if they are writing a master’s thesis. The major professor must approve the student’s coursework and research direction. A student may have more than one major professor, in which case at least one of the professors must be a member of the Horticulture faculty.

A master’s committee is composed of at least three current UW–Madison faculty members, including the major professor. The master’s committee is empowered by the program to advise the student regarding coursework and thesis content, and conduct the final master’s oral examination. Prior to the end of the first year of graduate study the student, in consultation with their major professor, should select two members of the UW–Madison faculty to serve on their master’s committee. It is the student’s responsibility to seek and obtain (verbal) approval from the faculty selected to serve on this committee.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**

15 credits

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS**

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff provost.wisc.edu/)
- Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
• Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
• Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
• Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
• Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences: Grievance Policy

In the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), any student who feels unfairly treated by a member of the CALS faculty or staff has the right to complain about the treatment and to receive a prompt hearing. Some complaints may arise from misunderstandings or communication breakdowns and be easily resolved; others may require formal action. Complaints may concern any matter of perceived unfairness.

To ensure a prompt and fair hearing of any complaint, and to protect the rights of both the person complaining and the person at whom the complaint is directed, the following procedures are used in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these procedures, except employees whose complaints are handled by the respective unit.

1. The student should first talk with the person at whom the complaint is directed. Most issues can be settled at this level. Others may be resolved by established departmental procedures.
2. If the student is unsatisfied, and the complaint involves any unit outside CALS, the student should seek the advice of the dean or director of that unit to determine how to proceed.
   a. If the complaint involves an academic department in CALS the student should proceed in accordance with item 3 below.
   b. If the grievance involves a unit in CALS that is not an academic department, the student should proceed in accordance with item 4 below.
3. The student should contact the department’s grievance advisor within 120 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment. The departmental administrator can provide this person’s name. The grievance advisor will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint, in discussions with the student and the person at whom the complaint is directed.
   a. If informal mediation fails, the student can submit the grievance in writing to the grievance advisor within 10 working days of the date the student is informed of the failure of the mediation attempt by the grievance advisor. The grievance advisor will provide a copy to the person at whom the grievance is directed.
   b. The grievance advisor will refer the complaint to a department committee that will obtain a written response from the person at whom the complaint is directed, providing a copy to the student. Either party may request a hearing before the committee. The grievance advisor will provide both parties a written decision within 20 working days from the date of receipt of the written complaint.
4. If the alleged unfair treatment occurs in a CALS unit that is not an academic department, the student should, within 120 calendar days of the alleged incident, take his/her grievance directly to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The dean will attempt to resolve the problem informally within 10 working days of receiving the complaint. If this mediation attempt fails the student may file a written complaint with the dean who will refer it to the CALS Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee will seek a written recommendation from the person at whom the complaint is directed, and provide the final decision within 20 working days of receipt of the recommendation.

OTHER
n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
The Horticulture Graduate programs encourage students to develop Individual Development Plans (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/idp/) in collaboration with their major advisor to facilitate professional development. Besides the extensive opportunities offered across the campus at large, students in the Horticulture programs also benefit from activities and programs provided by the Plant Sciences Graduate Council (http://psgsc.wisc.edu/), a student-led organization for graduate students at UW–Madison interested in plant science.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulates the theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry used in the field of horticulture.
2. Identifies sources and assembles evidence pertaining to questions in the field of horticulture.
3. Understands the primary field of horticulture in a global context.
4. Selects and utilizes the most appropriate methodologies and practices.
5. Synthesizes information pertaining to questions or challenges in the field of horticulture.
6. Communicates clearly in ways appropriate to the field of horticulture.
7. Recognizes and applies principles of ethical conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Bamberg, Colquhoun, Goldman, Havey, Jansky, Krysan (chair), Nienhuis, Palta, Simon, Spooner, Yandell, Associate Professors Bethke, Dawson, Endelman, Jull, Weng, Zalapa; Assistant Professors Atucha, Wang