

MANAGEMENT OF CROPS AND SOILS, CERTIFICATE

This specialty is designed for students interested in crops and soils-related areas. Students who complete this certificate will be able to communicate management options related to soil issues and successful crop production, think critically and innovatively, recognize the importance and intersecting roles of farmers and cropping systems, and understand specialized knowledge of safety related to farming. Alumni of the FISC program have reported securing employment as fertilizer and chemical managers for a co-op, crop scouts, and other positions related to production agriculture.

HOW TO GET IN

ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Admission decisions are made using a holistic approach with consideration of, but not limited to: an applicant's cumulative GPA, class rank, activities, leadership roles, academic progress as reflected on an official transcript, etc. Below are eligibility criteria and considerations:

Domestic Applicants:

- High School Diploma or GED required
- Involvement in agriculture-related activities
- Academic record
- Personal and professional goals
- Rank in the upper 80% of graduating class

There is no foreign language requirement.
Returning adult students will receive special consideration.

International Applicants**:

(The following requirements are set forth by the guidelines for the J-1 VISA as well as by the FISC office and UW campus).

- Degree or professional certificate from a foreign, post-secondary academic institution AND one year minimum of prior, ag-related work experience acquired outside of the United States, OR five years minimum of prior, ag-related work experience acquired outside of the United States
- Minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Proficiency in the English language, as demonstrated by a TOEFL score of 550 or higher, or IELTS score of 7 or higher, OR proof that your most recent four years of education were taught primarily in the English language
- Completed Certification of Financial Support form.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are available October 1 and close August 1 for domestic students for the upcoming academic year, and close June 1 for International applications. Applicants must mail an official high school or post-secondary transcript, depending upon the most recent school of attendance. (If a post-secondary transcript has fewer than 2 years of classwork reported, an applicant also must submit a high school transcript in addition to the post-secondary one.) International applicants must submit additional documents in order for their application to be considered complete as listed on the FISC International Students

(<https://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/prospective-students/international-students/>) application page.

The online FISC application is hosted by the Adult Career and Special Student Services (ACSSS), Division of Continuing Studies, which admits all University Special students (which includes FISC). Applicants will submit an application following the process below. A committee in FISC reviews the application and makes the final admissions decisions.

3-step process:

Step 1: Create an account and apply via the University Special student application (<https://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/prospective-students/apply-now/>). Select "Farm and Industry Short Course" as the student classification.

Step 2: Mail all transcripts and additional application materials to:

Farm & Industry Short Course
University of Wisconsin – Madison
116 Agricultural Hall
1450 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Step 3: Optional but recommended: Apply for FISC Scholarships (<https://fisc.cals.wisc.edu/prospective-students/funding-your-education/>) before April 1 to receive priority consideration.

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum of 12 credits and successful completion of all course requirements.
- Requires a GPA of 2.0 on all coursework.
- At least 12 program credits must be earned "in residence" (which includes on campus and distance-delivered courses) at UW-Madison.
- At least 12 program credits must be earned while enrolled in this Certificate program.

Code	Title	Credits
FISC 20	Introduction to Plant Science	2
FISC 121	Agricultural Commodities Marketing	2
FISC 133	Soil and Crop Nutrient Management	2
FISC 142	Identification and Management of Agronomic Pests	3
<i>Select at least one of the following courses:</i>		2
FISC 58	Forage Crops	
FISC 104	Grain Crops Production & Management	
<i>Select at least one credit from the following:</i>		1
FISC 21	Agricultural Sales	
FISC 23	Safe and Effective Uses of Pesticides in Agronomic Crops	
FISC 71	Pasture Management	
FISC 115	Agribusiness Feasibility Planning	
FISC 136	Agricultural Business Law	
FISC 145	Precision Agricultural Technologies	

Total Credits

12

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Develop effective and professional verbal, non-verbal, and written communication skills for personal and professional situations, including working with diverse audiences.
2. Apply scientific and management principles to running an agricultural operation, including developing new solutions to fit the demands and challenges of working and operating a farm or agribusiness in today's changing environment.
3. Build skills for thinking critically and innovatively, working creatively to make effective decisions and develop plans for future operational advances.
4. Integrate a global perspective of the agricultural industry, recognizing the importance and intersecting roles of farmers, food systems, urban and rural communities, and national and global markets.
5. Identify specialized knowledge in the latest technologies related to the agricultural industry and develop the capability to implement these in the operation.
6. Evaluate and design the sustainability of farm and agribusinesses by considering the economic, environmental, and social contexts.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Students are assigned an academic advisor at the 1st Year Orientation. Advisors and students will meet throughout the year to discuss program requirements and future career goals, as well as many other items. **Students are responsible for knowing academic requirements for graduation** and should consult with their advisor regularly. Students are encouraged to discuss with their advisor any possible changes of academic plans that may arise during the academic year.