ADVISING

All students are assigned an advisor when they join the department. Freshmen and other pre-biological systems engineering students work with a professional staff advisor. Once full admission requirements are met, students transition to a faculty advisor in their specialization area. All students are encouraged to outline a degree plan soon after declaring the major. Curriculum checklists for each track have been developed to assist students in this process. Many BSE courses are offered only once each year, which must be considered as part of the planning process. Student plans may vary based on previous coursework, plans for study abroad or certificate interest, co-op semesters, and individual interests. Prospective students should contact the department at bse@wisc.edu or 608-262-3310 for more information.

CAREERS


Biological Systems engineers combine their knowledge of life sciences, agriculture, and technology, with engineering problem-solving skills to address many of the most pressing problems facing the world today: providing safe and nutritious food, generating renewable energy, and preserving the natural environment.

If you like hands-on problem solving, you should consider Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) as your major.

Graduates can expect to find biological and agricultural engineering careers in a wide range of agencies and industries solving problems in many different areas. Graduates work in career fields associated with the growth, harvest, transportation, processing and storage of food, feedstuffs, biomass for energy production and forestry products. This includes, but is not limited to, jobs:

• designing and managing bio-energy systems, greenhouses, and food processing plants
• designing animal housing and environmental control systems
• developing irrigation and drainage systems
• protecting soils, and air and water quality
• designing and running wastewater treatment and waste management operations
• designing off-road equipment for agricultural production and material handling.

Job opportunities for BSE graduates remain plentiful and show no signs of decreasing given (1) the increase in world population and corresponding increasing need for food, fiber and renewable energy, (2) the measurable shortage of highly trained technical personnel in the United States, and (3) the constantly expanding emphasis on protection and conservation of natural resources.