

# AGRONOMY, BS

## ADVISING AND CAREERS

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#### ADVISING

The Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences is faculty-advised, meaning that faculty members take on the responsibility of guiding and advising undergraduates through graduation. Students and faculty are matched as closely as possible by interest. All new first-year and transfer students are temporarily advised by the student services coordinator until the advising relationship between professor and student is established. If you would like to have a conversation about joining the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, please contact [agronomy@wisc.edu](mailto:agronomy@wisc.edu) or the advisor, Bill Tracy [wfrtracy@wisc.edu](mailto:wfrtracy@wisc.edu).

#### CAREERS

An Agronomy degree is an open door to careers in many related fields such as biotechnology, plant genetics, crop management, agricultural financial management, farming, seed sales, crop consulting, Certified Crop Advising, Certified Professional Agronomy, agribusiness, extension agronomy, agricultural education, government work, and international agronomy.

#### GENETICS

The fastest growing sector of agriculture is plant breeding, genetics, and genomics. Plant scientists are working at the field, plant, cellular, and molecular level to create cultivars that are hardier, disease resistant, nutritious, and affordable. The industry's growth is currently outstripping the rate of graduation; graduates can take their pick of interesting, fulfilling careers in the public and private sectors.

#### BIOFUELS

The biofuel industry is also experiencing rapid growth, with research and development being focused on sugar-based biofuels, cellulosic biofuels, and biodiesels, made from plants as varied as switchgrass, sugar cane, corn, and wood pulp. These energy crops are harvested and processed into alternatives to fossil fuels.

#### AGRIBUSINESS

In agribusiness, agronomists take data and translate it into real-world applications. They sell tools for crop production, provide agricultural loans, consult on crops, manage businesses, and much more. They are often responsible for translating technical research data into applications. Numerous agronomy graduates are also involved in the sale of agricultural products, which are vital to today's economy. Other successful agronomists serve as crop advisers, farm managers, consultants, bank loan specialists, managers, and much more.

#### RESEARCH/EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

Agronomic educators specialize in teaching and working with high school and college students. They also teach and advise students who chose advanced studies for a master's degree and/or PhD. They are extensively involved in research, publishing findings on a regular basis and making scientific advances.

Extension agronomists usually work for a state, local, or national government; they consult with farmers and others to help find answers to their specific problems and help farmers translate research results into usable management practices. Government-employed agronomists also work with farmers and ranchers to plan for soil and water conservation so crops and land can be managed efficiently and with minimal impact to the environment.