PLANT PATHOLOGY, B.S.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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Undergraduates majoring in plant pathology at UW–Madison will find an inclusive, welcoming community where professors know their students and are able to provide guidance based on students’ specific academic and career goals. There are numerous opportunities to conduct research with internationally prominent faculty and to take part in the Wisconsin Idea, whereby faculty and students extend the knowledge developed at the university to stakeholders in Wisconsin and beyond for the betterment of society.

INTERNSHIPS

Plant pathology offers paid research internships during summer term, as well as paid or credit-earning research opportunities year-round. Undergraduates get a firsthand view of how research is conducted and what it means to be a professional scientist. For more information on internship opportunities available to plant pathology students please visit our Internship & Job Resources (https://plantpath.wisc.edu/undergrad-overview/undergrad-student-internship-job-resources/) page.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Nearly all Plant Pathology undergraduates participate in field- or lab-based research with a professor. Research in the department has a long tradition of supporting grower needs. Many faculty are using the plethora of research tools available, including molecular biology and systematics, to answer questions that are directly applicable to grower groups. Please visit the department’s Research (https://plantpath.wisc.edu/research/) page for additional details on research activities in Plant Pathology.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

By joining the Plant Pathology Undergraduate Club, majors get to know their fellow students outside the classroom. The department provides resources for students to meet experts who lead discussions on a range of topics including cutting-edge research and technology, career options, and how to apply and compete for jobs.

Undergraduate students are also welcome to join What’s Eating My Plants (https://www.facebook.com/wemp.uw/) (WEMP). This organization, founded in 2010 by Plant Pathology graduate students, is dedicated to bridging the gap between the University and the greater Madison community. The students visit Family Science Nights at schools, community centers, and Saturday Science at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID) throughout the year.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Plant Pathology students interested in studying issues on a global scale are encouraged to enroll in Plant Path 311: Global Food Security, which explores drivers of food insecurity: barriers to food production (pests, land availability, climate), barriers to food availability (politics, price, biofuels), and a greater need due to population growth. The Plant Pathology program is an excellent choice for students wishing to participate in a study abroad experience. Students can find more information about study abroad on the CALS study abroad advising page (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/international-programs/study-abroad-advising/).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

The UW-Madison Division of Extension provides statewide access to the resources and research of the University of Wisconsin, other universities and the United States Department of Agriculture, so that people of Wisconsin can learn, grow, and succeed at all stages of life. The UW-Madison Division of Extension carries out the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea (http://www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/) — extending the boundaries of the university to the boundaries of the state. UW-Madison Extension and outreach activities support educational programs for farmers, businesses, communities, families, and youth. More details can be found on the department Extension & Outreach (https://plantpath.wisc.edu/extension-overview/) page.

On campus, the Morgridge Center for Public Service (https://morgridge.wisc.edu/) provides resources to help students connect with volunteer opportunities based on their interests and goals.