

SOIL SCIENCE, BS

Admissions to the Soil Science, BS will be suspended as of spring 2025 and will be discontinued as of summer 2029. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

The Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences provides undergraduate and graduate education in the environmental, agricultural, and natural resource aspects of soils. Areas of emphasis include soil ecology, soil erosion management, soil fertility and plant nutrition, soil physical and chemical characterization, biogeochemistry, urban soils, soil carbon, soil health, soil contaminants, waste management, pedology, and land use analysis.

Soils are a critical natural resource in environmental protection, food and fiber production, turf and grounds management, rural and urban planning, and waste disposal. All of these facets are integrated into the department's course offerings and research programs. Soil science majors prepare for professional, technical, consulting, and project positions in environmental sciences, ecology and restoration, crop and timber production, soil informatics, soil conservation, environmental pollution control, turf and grounds management, and land-use planning. Please contact the department for further information on career opportunities.

Students completing an undergraduate major in soil science earn a bachelor of science degree. A problem-solving "capstone course" that integrates knowledge gleaned from a diversity of courses is required.

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN

Admissions to the Soil Science, BS will be suspended as of spring 2025 and will be discontinued as of summer 2029. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

To declare this major, students must be admitted to UW–Madison and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). For information about becoming a CALs first-year or transfer student, see Entering the College (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#enteringthecolletext>).

Students who attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the option to declare this major at SOAR. Students may otherwise declare after they have begun their undergraduate studies. For more information, contact the advisor listed in the Contact Box for the major.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition

to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext>) section of the *Guide*.

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|-------------------|--|
| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the University General Education Requirements, all undergraduate students in CALs must satisfy a set of college and major requirements. Courses may not double count within university requirements (General Education and Breadth) or within college requirements (First-Year Seminar, International Studies, Science, and Capstone), but courses counted toward university requirements may also be used to satisfy a college and/or a major requirement; similarly, courses counted toward college requirements may also be used to satisfy a university and/or a major requirement.

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CALS BS DEGREE PROGRAMS

Code	Title	Credits
Quality of Work: Students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.000 to remain in good standing and be eligible for graduation.		
Residency: Students must complete 30 degree credits in residence at UW–Madison after earning 86 credits toward their undergraduate degree.		
	First year seminar (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALsFirstYearSeminarCourses)	1
	International studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALsInternationalStudiesCourses)	3
	Physical science fundamentals	4-5
	CHEM 103 General Chemistry I or CHEM 108 Chemistry in Our World or CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry	
	Biological science	5
	Additional science (biological, physical, or natural)	3
	Science breadth (biological, physical, natural, or social)	3

CALS Capstone Learning Experience: included in the requirements for each CALS major (see "major requirements") (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSCapstoneRequirement>)

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses may not double count within the major (unless specifically noted otherwise), but courses counted toward the major requirements may also be used to satisfy a university requirement and/or a college requirement. A minimum of 15 credits must be completed in the major that are not used elsewhere.

Code	Title	Credits
Mathematics and Statistics		
Select one of the following courses:		3-5
MATH 112	Algebra	
MATH 114	Algebra and Trigonometry	
MATH 171	Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry I ¹	
Select one of the following courses:		3-4
STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences (recommended)	
STAT/F&W ECOL/ HORT 571	Statistical Methods for Bioscience I	
Chemistry		
Select one of the following options:		5-9
Option 1:		
CHEM 103 & CHEM 104	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II	
Option 2:		
CHEM 109	Advanced General Chemistry	
Biology		
Select one of the following options:		10
Option 1 (recommended):		
BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130	General Botany ²	
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101	Animal Biology	
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	Animal Biology Laboratory	
Option 2:		
BIOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 151	Introductory Biology	
BIOLOGY/ BOTANY/ ZOOLOGY 152	Introductory Biology	
Option 3:		
BIOCORE 381	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics	
BIOCORE 382	Evolution, Ecology, and Genetics Laboratory	
BIOCORE 383	Cellular Biology	
BIOCORE 384	Cellular Biology Laboratory	
Core		

SOIL SCI 301 & SOIL SCI 302	General Soil Science and Meet Your Soil: Soil Analysis and Interpretation Laboratory	4
Select one of the following courses:		3
SOIL SCI 321	Soils and Environmental Chemistry	
SOIL SCI 621	Soil Chemistry	
SOIL SCI/ AGRONOMY/ HORT 326	Plant Nutrition Management	
SOIL SCI/ BOTANY/ HORT 626	Mineral Nutrition of Plants	
Select one of the following courses:		3
SOIL SCI 327	Environmental Monitoring and Soil Characterization for Earth's Critical Zone	
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics	
Select one of the following courses:		3
SOIL SCI/ PL PATH 323	Soil Biology	
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 425	Environmental Microbiology	
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523	Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry	
Focus Areas		
Students must complete 1 of 3 focus areas: 1. Environmental Soil Science 2. Soil and Food Systems 3. Turf and Grounds (see below)		29-44
Capstone		
Select one of the following courses:		3-4
SOIL SCI 499	Soil Management ³	
ENVIR ST/ SOIL SCI 575	Assessment of Environmental Impact	
F&W ECOL/ A A E 652	Decision Methods for Natural Resource Managers	
Total Credits		66-89

¹ Note that MATH 171 & MATH 217 must be taken as a sequence.

² BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 is required by the Turf and Grounds focus area.

³ SOIL SCI 499 capstone required for Turf and Grounds focus area.

FOCUS AREAS WITHIN THE MAJOR

Environmental Soil Science

Code	Title	Credits
Mathematics		
Select one of the following courses:		5
MATH 211	Survey of Calculus	
MATH 221	Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	
MATH 217	Calculus with Algebra and Trigonometry II	
Physics		
Select one of the following courses:		4-5
PHYSICS 103	General Physics (recommended)	
PHYSICS 104	General Physics	
PHYSICS 207	General Physics	

PHYSICS 208 General Physics

Chemistry

Select one of the following options: 4-8

Option 1:

CHEM 311 Chemistry Across the Periodic Table

CHEM 327 Fundamentals of Analytical Science

or CHEM 329 Fundamentals of Analytical Science

Option 2:

CHEM 341 & CHEM 342 Elementary Organic Chemistry and Elementary Organic Chemistry Laboratory

Option 3:

CHEM 343 & CHEM 344 & CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I and Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory and Organic Chemistry II

Physical Environment**6**

Select one course from the following:

ATM OCN 100 Weather and Climate

ATM OCN 101 Weather and Climate

ATM OCN/
SOIL SCI 132 Earth's Water: Natural Science and Human UseGEOG/
ENVIR ST 120 Introduction to the Earth SystemGEOG/
ENVIR ST 127 Physical Systems of the EnvironmentGEOSCI/
ENVIR ST 106 Environmental Geology

GEOSCI 202 Introduction to Geologic Structures

SOIL SCI 131 Earth's Soil: Natural Science and Human Use

SOIL SCI 321 Soils and Environmental Chemistry

SOIL SCI/
AGRONOMY/
HORT 326 Plant Nutrition Management

Select at least one course from the following:

GEOG/CIV ENGR 320 Geomorphology

ATM OCN/
GEOG 323 Science of Climate ChangeSOIL SCI/
ENVIR ST 324 Soils and Environmental QualitySOIL SCI/
F&W ECOL/
HORT 524 Urban Soil and Environment

SOIL SCI 621 Soil Chemistry

SOIL SCI 622 Soil Physics

SOIL SCI/
BOTANY/
HORT 626 Mineral Nutrition of PlantsAGRONOMY/ATM
OCN/SOIL SCI
532 Environmental BiophysicsF&W ECOL/
LAND ARC/
ZOOLOGY 565 Principles of Landscape Ecology

GEOG 578 GIS Applications

Living Environment**11**

Select one course from the following:

AGRONOMY 100 Principles and Practices in Crop Production

AGRONOMY 300 Cropping Systems

GEOG/
ENVIR ST 309 People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture SystemsZOOLOGY/
ENVIR ST 315 Limnology-Conservation of Aquatic Resources

HORT 345 Fruit Crop Production

HORT 370 World Vegetable Crops

AGROECOL 400 Study Abroad in Agroecology

SOIL SCI/
AGRONOMY/
BOTANY 370 Grassland EcologySOIL SCI/
MICROBIO 425 Environmental MicrobiologySOIL SCI/
MICROBIO 523 Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry

Select one course from the following:

BOTANY/F&W
ECOL/ZOOLOGY
460 General Ecology

F&W ECOL 550 & F&W ECOL 551 Forest Ecology and Forest Ecology Lab

GENETICS 466 Principles of Genetics

BOTANY 500 Plant Physiology

SOIL SCI/
MICROBIO 523 Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry

GENETICS 545 Genetics Laboratory

BOTANY/
PL PATH 563 Phylogenetic Analysis of Molecular DataSOIL SCI/
BOTANY/
HORT 626 Mineral Nutrition of PlantsSOIL SCI/
CIV ENGR/
M&ENVTOX 631 Toxicants in the Environment: Sources, Distribution, Fate, & Effects

Select one of the following options:

Option 1:

MICROBIO 101 & MICROBIO 102 General Microbiology and General Microbiology Laboratory

Option 2:

MICROBIO 303 & MICROBIO 304 Biology of Microorganisms and Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory

Option 3:

BOTANY 330 & BOTANY/
PL PATH 332 Algae and Fungi**Environmental Policy, Management, and Analysis****9**

Select one of the following courses:

SOIL SCI/ENVIR ST 101	Forum on the Environment
ENVIR ST 112	Environmental Studies: Social Science Perspectives
ENVIR ST 113	Environmental Studies: Environmental Humanities
ENVIR ST/ILS 126	Principles of Environmental Science
ENVIR ST/GEOG 127	Physical Systems of the Environment
A A E/F&W ECOL 652	Decision Methods for Natural Resource Managers
SOIL SCI/ENVIR ST 575	Assessment of Environmental Impact
GEOG/ SOIL SCI 526	Human Transformations of Earth Surface Processes

Select one of the following courses:

A A E 101	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 111	Principles of Economics- Accelerated Treatment
A A E/ ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy

Select one of the following courses:

ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ G L E/GEOG/ GEOSCI/ LAND ARC 371	Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ G L E/GEOG/ GEOSCI/ LAND ARC 372	Intermediate Environmental Remote Sensing
ENVIR ST/LAND ARC/SOIL SCI 695	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources

Total Credits **39-44**

Soil and Food Systems

Code	Title	Credits
Physical Environment		8-10

Select one of the following courses:

ATM OCN 100	Weather and Climate
SOIL SCI/ ATM OCN 132	Earth's Water: Natural Science and Human Use
ATM OCN 101	Weather and Climate
ATM OCN/ GEOG 323	Science of Climate Change
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 120	Introduction to the Earth System
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 127	Physical Systems of the Environment
GEOSCI 100	Introductory Geology: How the Earth Works

GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 106	Environmental Geology
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST 324	Soils and Environmental Quality
SOIL SCI 321	Soils and Environmental Chemistry
SOIL SCI/ AGRONOMY/ HORT 326	Plant Nutrition Management
SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451	Environmental Biogeochemistry
SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL/ HORT 524	Urban Soil and Environment

Select one of the following courses:

F&W ECOL/ ZOOLOGY 565	Principles of Landscape Ecology
GEOG/CIV ENGR 320	Geomorphology
GEOG 578	GIS Applications
GEOG 579	GIS and Spatial Analysis
SOIL SCI 131	Earth's Soil: Natural Science and Human Use
SOIL SCI/ F&W ECOL 451	Environmental Biogeochemistry
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 523	Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry
SOIL SCI 621	Soil Chemistry
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics
SOIL SCI/ BOTANY/ HORT 626	Mineral Nutrition of Plants

Select one of the following courses:

ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ G L E/GEOG/ GEOSCI/ LAND ARC 371	Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing
ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL/ G L E/GEOG/ GEOSCI/ LAND ARC 372	Intermediate Environmental Remote Sensing
ENVIR ST/LAND ARC/SOIL SCI 695	Applications of Geographic Information Systems in Natural Resources

Economics and Food Management **6-8**

Select one of the following courses:

ACCT I S 100	Introductory Financial Accounting
ACCT I S 211	Introductory Managerial Accounting
ACCT I S 300	Accounting Principles
ACCT I S 301	Financial Reporting I
ACCT I S 329	Taxation: Concepts for Business and Personal Planning
A A E 101	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics
A A E 320	Agricultural Systems Management

A A E 322	Commodity Markets	
A A E 323	Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership	
A A E 419	Agricultural Finance	
A A E/ECON 421	Economic Decision Analysis	
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	
M H R 305	Human Resource Management	
M H R 610	Compensation: Theory and Administration	
M H R 611	Strategic Talent Management	
M H R 612	Labor-Management Relations	
Select one of the following courses:		
ECON 101	Principles of Microeconomics	
ECON 111	Principles of Economics-Accelerated Treatment	
ACCT I S 100	Introductory Financial Accounting	
ACCT I S 211	Introductory Managerial Accounting	
ACCT I S 300	Accounting Principles	
ACCT I S 301	Financial Reporting I	
ACCT I S 329	Taxation: Concepts for Business and Personal Planning	
A A E 320	Agricultural Systems Management	
A A E 322	Commodity Markets	
A A E 323	Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership	
A A E 419	Agricultural Finance	
A A E/ECON 421	Economic Decision Analysis	
A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	
SOIL SCI/MICROBIO 425	Environmental Microbiology	
SOIL SCI/MICROBIO 523	Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry	
M H R 305	Human Resource Management	
M H R 610	Compensation: Theory and Administration	
M H R 611	Strategic Talent Management	
M H R 612	Labor-Management Relations	
Specialized Sciences (complete all)		
AGRONOMY 100	Principles and Practices in Crop Production	3-4
or HORT 120	Survey of Horticulture	
AGRONOMY 300	Cropping Systems	3
or AGRONOMY 303	Forage Management and Utilization	
or HORT 345	Fruit Crop Production	
AGRONOMY/HORT/ SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	3
PL PATH 300	Introduction to Plant Pathology	3-4
or ENTOM 351	Principles of Economic Entomology	
A A E 101	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics	4
or A A E/ ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	

or A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	
or A A E/ AGRONOMY/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	

Total Credits **30-36**

Turf and Grounds

Code	Title	Credits
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Physical Environment

Select one of the following courses:		3
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ATM OCN 100	Weather and Climate	
ATM OCN 101	Weather and Climate	
SOIL SCI/ ATM OCN 132	Earth's Water: Natural Science and Human Use	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 120	Introduction to the Earth System	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 127	Physical Systems of the Environment	
GEOSCI 100	Introductory Geology: How the Earth Works	
GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 106	Environmental Geology	

Core Turf and Grounds Sciences (complete all)

ACCT I S 300	Accounting Principles	3
BOTANY/ BIOLOGY 130	General Botany (also counts for Soil Science Biology requirement)	5
HORT/PL PATH 261	Sustainable Turfgrass Use and Management	2
M H R 305	Human Resource Management	3
PL PATH 300	Introduction to Plant Pathology	4
HORT/SOIL SCI 332	Turfgrass Nutrient and Water Management	3
Specialized Sciences		7

Select 7 credits from the following courses:

BOTANY/F&W ECOL 402	Dendrology: Woody Plant Identification and Ecology	
HORT/ LAND ARC 263	Landscape Plants I	
BSE 243	Operating and Management Principles of Off-Road Vehicles	
BSE 301	Land Information Management	
ENTOM 351	Principles of Economic Entomology	
HORT 120	Survey of Horticulture	
HORT/ PL PATH 262	Turfgrass Management Laboratory	

Total Credits **30**

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students admitted to the university and to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to apply to be considered for admission to the CALS Honors Program.

Admission Criteria for New First-Year Students:

- Complete program application including essay questions

Admission Criteria for Transfer and Continuing UW-Madison Students:

- UW-Madison cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
- Complete program application including essay questions

HOW TO APPLY

The application is available on the CALS Honors Program website (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/>). Applications are accepted at any time.

New first-year students with accepted applications will automatically be enrolled in Honors in Research. It is possible to switch to Honors in the Major in the student's first semester on campus after receiving approval from the advisor for that major. Transfer and continuing students may apply directly to Honors in Research or Honors in the Major (after approval from the major advisor).

REQUIREMENTS

All CALS Honors programs have the following requirements:

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.25 GPA at UW-Madison (some programs have higher requirements)
- Complete the program-specific requirements listed below
- Submit completed thesis documentation to CALS Academic Affairs

HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students are required to take at least 20 honors credits. In addition, students must take SOIL SCI 681 Senior Honors Thesis and SOIL SCI 682 Senior Honors Thesis when completing their thesis project; please see the Honors in Major Checklist (<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/get-involved/honors-program/honors-in-the-major/>) for more information.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To instill in our undergraduate majors the knowledge base required for them to intelligently discuss, debate and communicate those aspects of soil science pertinent to their degree, specialization and career goals.
2. To provide our undergraduates with the skills and experience needed to identify and solve problems and issues of the types they may encounter in their professions.
3. To ensure that our undergraduates possess an awareness of and an appreciation for the potential impacts of soil, water, crop and waste management practices, and land use on the quality of the environment.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE SOIL SCIENCE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 103 or 109	4-5 CHEM 104	5
MATH 114 or 171	5 ETHNIC STUDIES	3
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR	1 ELECTIVES	7-8
COMM-A/ELECTIVES	3-4	
13-15		15-16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 or ZOOLOGY 151 ¹	5 ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	5
SOIL SCI 301 & SOIL SCI 302	4 COMM-B/ELECTIVES	3
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	3 FOCUS AREA COURSE	4-5
ELECTIVES	3 ELECTIVES	3
15		15-16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 321	3 SOIL SCI 622	3
STATISTICS	3 SOIL SCI/PL PATH 323	3
FOCUS AREA COURSE/ ELECTIVES	6 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	9-10
12		15-16

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 499 (Capstone)	3 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	15-16

FOCUS AREA	12	
COURSES/ELECTIVES		
	15	15-16

Total Credits 115-121

SAMPLE SOIL SCIENCE FOUR-YEAR PLAN: SOIL & FOOD SYSTEMS; TURF AND GROUND FOCUS AREAS

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 103 or 109	4-5 CHEM 104	5
MATH 114 or 171	5 ETHNIC STUDIES	3
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR	1 ELECTIVES	7-8
COMM-A/ELECTIVES	3-4	
	13-15	15-16

Total Credits 28-31**Sophomore**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 or ZOOLOGY 151 ¹	5 ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	5
SOIL SCI 301 & SOIL SCI 302	4 COMM-B/ELECTIVES	3
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	3 FOCUS AREA COURSE	4-5
ELECTIVES	3 ELECTIVES	3
	15	15-16

Total Credits 30-31**Junior**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 321	3 SOIL SCI/PL PATH 323	3
STATISTICS	3 SOIL SCI 622	3
FOCUS AREA COURSE/ ELECTIVES	6 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	9-10
	12	15-16

Total Credits 27-28**Senior**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 499 (Capstone)	3 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	15-16
FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	12	
	15	15-16

Total Credits 30-31

SAMPLE SOIL SCIENCE FOUR-YEAR PLAN –ENVIRONMENTAL SOIL SCIENCE FOCUS AREA

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CHEM 103 or 109	4-5 CHEM 104	5
MATH 114 or 171	5 ETHNIC STUDIES	3
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR	1 ELECTIVES	7-8
COMM-A/ELECTIVES	3-4	
	13-15	15-16

Total Credits 28-31**Sophomore**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 or ZOOLOGY 151	5 ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101 & ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 102	5
SOIL SCI 301 & SOIL SCI 302	4 FOCUS AREA COURSE	4-5
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	3 ELECTIVES	3
ELECTIVES	3 COMM-B/ELECTIVES	3
	15	15-16

Total Credits 30-31**Junior**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 321	3 SOIL SCI 622	3
FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	6 SOIL SCI/PL PATH 323	3
STATISTICS	3 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	9-10
	12	15-16

Total Credits 27-28**Senior**

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOIL SCI 499 (Capstone)	3 FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	15-16
FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	12	
	15	15-16

Total Credits 30-31

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Students are assigned a faculty advisor once they declare the major. Prospective students should contact the undergraduate coordinator, Zach Wyman (zwyman@wisc.edu, 608-265-2925), with questions.

Most of our graduates find employment in a diversity of private and commercial enterprises and governmental agencies. Recent examples of employment include laboratory technician, turf and grounds manager,

¹ BOTANY/BIOLOGY 130 and ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101/ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 102 are required for Turf and Grounds focus area.

agrichemical sales representative, environmental scientist, land use planner, land zoning administrator, project manager, wetlands delineator, and hydrogeologist. Approximately 12% of our undergraduates pursue advanced degrees.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE FACULTY

Dr. Francisco Arriaga

Applied Soil Physics, Soil and Water Management and Conservation: Conservation agriculture systems; development of conservation tillage practices that enhance soil quality, soil hydraulic properties, and plant water use through the adoption of cover crops and non-inversion tillage for traditional cropping systems.

Dr. Nicholas Balster

Soil Ecology, Plant Physiological Ecology, and Education: Energy and material cycling in natural and anthropogenic soils including forests, grasslands, and urban ecosystems; stable isotope ecology; environmental education; nutrition management of nursery soils; tree physiology, production and response; ecosystem response to global change; urban ecosystem processes; invasive plant ecology; biodiversity.

Dr. Phillip Barak

Soil Chemistry and Plant Nutrition: Nutrient cycling; nutrient recovery from wastewater; molecular visualization of soil minerals and molecules; soil acidification.

Dr. Zachary Freedman

Soil microbiology, ecology and sustainability: Effects of environmental change on biogeochemical cycles; community ecology and trophic dynamics; forest soil ecology; soil organic matter dynamics; sustainable agroecosystems; bio-based product crop production on marginal lands.

Dr. Alfred Hartemink

Pedology, Digital Soil Mapping: Pedology; soil carbon; digital soil mapping; tropical soils; history and philosophy of soil science.

Dr. Jingyi Huang

Soil Physics, Proximal and Remote Sensing, Soil Monitoring and Management, Digital Soil Mapping: Application of proximal and remote sensing technologies for understanding the movement of water, heat, gas, and solutes in soils across different spatial and temporal scales; application of physical and empirical models for monitoring, mapping, and managing soil changes due to natural processes and human activities.

Dr. Inna Popova

Environmental soil chemistry; understanding and mitigating the response of soil systems to the increased pressure of organic contaminants; application of biopesticides; development of novel separation and analyses methods for contaminants in environmental matrices.

Dr. Natasha Rayne

Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management: Manure placement, timing, and nitrogen credits; Organic soil amendments and nutrient cycling; Climate-smart and site-specific nitrogen management; Improvement of nitrogen use efficiency in cereal crop production.

Dr. Matthew Ruark

Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management: Soil fertility and management of grain biofuel, and vegetable crops; cover crop management; agricultural production and water quality; sustainability of dairy cropping systems; soil organic matter management.

Dr. Douglas Soldat

Turfgrass and Urban Soils: Turfgrass, urban soils, nutrient management, water resources, soil testing, landscape irrigation; soil contamination.

Dr. Thea Whitman

Soil Ecology, Microbiology, and Biogeochemistry: Soil microbial ecology; organic matter decomposition and carbon stabilization; global environmental change; stable isotopes; linking functional significance of microbial communities with ecosystem processes; fire effects on soil carbon and microbes; management and policy.

Dr. Xia Zhu-Barker

Soil Biogeochemistry, Land Management, and Environmental Sustainability: Nitrogen and carbon biogeochemical cycles; greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions; nitrate leaching and runoff; innovative manure and nutrient utilization; composting; climate change mitigation and adaptation; ecosystem services and carbon markets; dairy environmental sustainability; novel methods in isotopic techniques; mechanistic exploration of soil-plant-microbe interactions; process-based modelling. The specific research topics include:

- Microbial and abiotic processes involved in the production and consumption of nitrogen and carbon gases (N_2O , NO_x , NH_3 , CO_2 , CH_4)
- Land management practices (e.g., compost, fertilizer, cover crops, irrigation, and tillage) that change soil health, nitrogen use efficiency, crop productivity, nitrogen losses, carbon turnover.
- Process oriented modelling of carbon/nitrogen turnover in agricultural ecosystems.
- Environmental changes on the sustainability and resilience of agricultural ecosystems especially dairy production systems.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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Students majoring in soil science are involved in an array of opportunities across campus. Students are highly encouraged to complement their coursework with out-of-classroom experiences such as research (<https://soils.wisc.edu/research-programs/>), volunteering (<https://morgridge.wisc.edu/>), internships (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/>)

undergraduate-students/outside-the-classroom/internships/), and study abroad (<https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/>).

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Financial support – in the form of approximately 15 scholarships, part-time employment, paid internships, and work-study programs – is available to qualified undergraduate students. The department also provides opportunities and limited financial support in the form of research assistantships to qualified students seeking MS and/or PhD degrees – see the Graduate Guide (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/>).