

HORTICULTURE, PHD

ADMISSIONS

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Admissions to the Horticulture PhD will be suspended as of fall 2026 and will be discontinued as of fall 2032. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

Students interested in the Horticulture PhD may want to consider the Plant Science and Technology PhD, a new program as of Fall 2025. This new program replaces the Horticulture PhD. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	September 1
Summer Deadline	December 1
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

The Horticulture graduate program accepts applications for fall, spring, and summer entry. The applicant's academic preparation should include fundamental courses in the plant sciences such as botany, bacteriology, genetics, and physiology, as well as courses in chemistry (general, organic, quantitative), physics, mathematics, and biochemistry. The academic average should be at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) with evidence of proficiency in subjects related to agriculture and plant sciences.

PREPARATORY COURSEWORK

Students are expected to enter the program having taken the following coursework. Deficient courses may be taken while in the program in consultation with the student's graduate committee.

- Physical Sciences - one course in each of the following:
 - Physics, including electricity, heat, and light
 - Calculus
 - Organic Chemistry lecture
 - Organic Chemistry lab or Biochemistry lab
- Biological Sciences - one course in each of the following:
 - Crop Production
 - Plant Breeding or Genetics
 - Plant Structure, Plant Taxonomy, or Plant Physiology
 - Plant Pathology or Entomology
- One Statistics Course
- One Soil Science Course

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A complete application should include the following items:

1. Graduate School Application and Application Fee
2. Supplementary Application: The supplementary application will appear as a part of the Graduate School's electronic application once the applicant selects Horticulture.
3. Statement of Purpose: Your essay should be a concise description of your reasons for choosing to study horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please include your research interests and career goals as well as a description of your preparation for graduate study including relevant coursework, related employment, research experience, publications, presentations, awards, and honors.
4. Transcripts: We require all applicants to submit an unofficial transcript in PDF format to their online application. If an applicant is recommended for admission, then they will be required to submit their official transcript to the Graduate School. International academic records must be submitted in the original language and accompanied by an official English translation. Documents must be issued by the institution with an official seal/stamp and an official signature.
5. Three Letters of Recommendation
6. Proof of English Proficiency: Applicants, whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English, must follow the Graduate School's guidelines for proof of English proficiency.

FACULTY ADVISORS

The Horticulture MS and PhD programs do not support lab rotations. All students are admitted directly into a faculty member's lab. Thus, we strongly encourage applicants to contact faculty members who work in their areas of interest before and during the application and admissions process.