ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, CERTIFICATE

As consumer, industry, and society engagement with organic agriculture expands, the Certificate in Organic Agriculture provides undergraduate students excellent opportunities for learning on a variety of levels, including hands-on experiences. While the certificate focuses on the production and processing approaches that define organic agriculture, students can also explore other dimensions including economic, environmental, health, food systems, and policy. This interdisciplinary certificate can help UW students from various majors to develop employment opportunities in organic agriculture businesses (farm to fork), policy, public and non-governmental agency work, individual wellness and health initiatives, and sustainable development efforts.

HOW TO GET IN

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Students may declare the certificate after completing one of these courses:

Code	Title	Credits
AGROECOL/ C&E SOC/ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 103	Agroecology: An Introduction to the Ecology of Food and Agriculture	3
PL PATH/ BOTANY 123	Plants, Parasites, and People	3
PLANTSCI 110	Introduction to Plant Science and Technology	4
C&E SOC/SOC 222	Food, Culture, and Society	3

Students who meet the eligibility criteria must contact the certificate advisor listed in the contact information box to declare the certificate and be assigned an advisor. Students are encouraged to meet with the certificate advisor at any stage of their interest in the certificate.

Students cannot declare the Certificate in Food Systems along with Certificate in Organic Agriculture.

REQUIREMENTS

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Code	Title	Credits
Foundation		3-4
Core		6
Electives		6
Total Credits		**15-16**

- Minimum of 15 credits and successful completion of all course requirements
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in certificate coursework is required
- Courses in which a student elects the pass/fail option will not count toward completion of requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation		
Complete one of the following courses:		
AGROECOL/ C&E SOC/ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 103	Agroecology: An Introduction to the Ecology of Food and Agriculture	3
C&E SOC/SOC 222	Food, Culture, and Society	3
PL PATH/ BOTANY 123	Plants, Parasites, and People	3
PLANTSCI 110	Introduction to Plant Science and Technology	4
Core		
Complete all of the following courses:		
PLANTSCI/A A E/ PL PATH 367	Introduction to Organic Agriculture: Production, Markets, and Policy	3
PLANTSCI 372	Seminar in Organic Agriculture	1
PL PATH 499	Independent Study in Organic Agriculture	2
Electives		
Complete 6 credits from the following list - courses can be chosen from any topic area:		
Public Policy & Administration		
A A E/ENVIR ST 244	The Environment and the Global Economy	4
A A E 319	The International Agricultural Economy	3
FOOD SCI/ AN SCI 321	Food Laws and Regulations	1
PLANTSCI 360	Genetically Modified Crops: Science, Regulation & Controversy	2
LSC 251	Science, Media and Society	3
PUB AFFR 240	Evidence-Based Policy Making	3
PUB AFFR 380	Analytic Tools for Public Policy	3
Business/Entrepreneurship		
A A E 101	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics	4
A A E 320	Agricultural Systems Management	3
A A E 323	Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership	3
GEN BUS 310	Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance for Non-Business Majors	3
or GEN BUS 311	Fundamentals of Management and Marketing for Non-Business Majors	
OTM/ MARKETNG 421	Fundamentals of Supply Chain Management	3
ENVIR ST/A A E/ ECON 343	Environmental Economics	3-4
M H R 310	Challenges & Solutions in Business Sustainability	3
FOOD SCI 437	Food Service Operations	4
M H R 322	Introduction to Entrepreneurship	3
M H R 434	Venture Creation	3
Organic Production & Processing		

AGROECOL 377	Global Food Production and Health	3
AN SCI 245	Animal Welfare	3
BOTANY/AMER IND/ ANTHRO 474	Ethnobotany	3-4
BSE 349	Quantitative Techniques for Biological Systems	3
DY SCI 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability	3
DY SCI/AN SCI/ FOOD SCI/ SOIL SCI 472	Animal Agriculture and Global Sustainable Development	1
ENTOM 351	Principles of Economic Entomology	3
PL PATH 300	Introduction to Plant Pathology	4
PL PATH 315	Plant Microbiomes	4
PL PATH 517	Plant Disease Resistance	2-3
PLANTSCI 300	Cropping Systems	3
PLANTSCI 302	Forage Management and Utilization	3
PLANTSCI 333	Survey of Controlled Environment Food Production	2
PLANTSCI 334	Greenhouse Cultivation	2
PLANTSCI 335	Greenhouse Cultivation Lab	1
PLANTSCI 338	Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	3
PLANTSCI 376	Tropical Horticultural Systems	2
SOIL SCI 323	Soil Biology	3
SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	3
Social Dimension		
C&E SOC/A A E/ SOC 340	Issues in Food Systems	3-4
C&E SOC/SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems	3
ENVIR ST/ ENTOM 205	Our Planet, Our Health	3
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 339	Environmental Conservation	4
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 139	Global Environmental Issues	3
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems	3
PL PATH 311	Global Food Security	3
PLANTSCI 380	Indigenous Foodways: Food and Seed Sovereignty	2

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Describe the history of current organic systems and how it influences the way that organic farms and industries work.
2. Explore the biological, ecological, and agricultural underpinnings of organic production systems
3. Examine how organic systems, social initiatives, and regulations are developed and how they shape business activities, community development efforts, and human and environmental health outcomes.
4. Evaluate the benefits and limitations of organic systems, social initiatives, and regulations from environmental, social, economic, and racial justice perspectives
5. Apply knowledge of organic production through experiential opportunities within local, national and/or international communities.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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ADVISING

Advising is an essential resource for students in the Certificate for Organic Agriculture and helps students shape their unique Wisconsin Experience and career path by making the most of their time at UW–Madison. Advisors can help students make well-informed decisions about coursework and academics, share strategies for success, support them as they encounter challenges, connect them to resources, and provide information about campus policies and procedures. Students are encouraged to regularly meet with their advisor to help ensure that they are aware of opportunities and are progressing in their academic and career goals.

Advising is typically done through individual in-person appointments, but advisors are also able to meet with students over the phone or through video conferencing if needed. Quick questions can be answered via email, but an appointment should be scheduled if a conversation is needed.

CAREERS

The knowledge and skills developed through the Certificate in Organic Agriculture equip students for success in a range of career paths. Some certificate graduates may use this background to go into organic production, while others may choose a career path in relation to economics, policy, environmental stewardship, health, food systems, and beyond. This certificate has the potential to positively impact the employability of UW students across a variety of disciplines that intersect with organic agricultural production, policy, marketing, business, management, wellness, and community development.

Because an interest in organic agriculture can lead to many different careers, students are encouraged to begin the career exploration process early in their UW–Madison journey by working with advisors, faculty, and career resources on campus. These resources can help students reflect on their values and goals, identify career paths, and outline strategies for pursuing their goals.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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Students who are engaged in the Certificate in Organic Agriculture can be involved in an array of opportunities across campus. In addition to the hands-on experiences in the certificate program, students are highly encouraged to complement their coursework with out-of-classroom experiences such as research, volunteering, and study abroad.

The following opportunities can help students connect with other students interested in organic agriculture, build relationships with faculty and staff, and contribute to out-of-classroom learning:

- Association of Women in Agriculture (https://awamadison.org/)
- GreenHouse Learning Community (https://www.housing.wisc.edu/residence-halls/learning-communities/greenhouse/)
- Women in Science and Engineering Learning Community (https://www.housing.wisc.edu/residence-halls/learning-communities/wise/)
- The People's Farm (https://www.the-peoples-farm.com/)
- Slow Food UW (https://slowfood-uw.org/)
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences - MANRRS (https://www.manrrs.org/)
- CALS Study Abroad (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/studyabroad/)
- Badger Volunteers (https://morgridge.wisc.edu/students/badger-volunteers/)
- UW Student Organic Farm (https://uworganic.wisc.edu/uw-student-organic-farm/)
- UW Organic Collaborative (https://uworganic.wisc.edu/)
- Badger Crops Club (https://pasdept.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/agronomy-major/badger-crop-club/)