SOIL SCIENCE, BS

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

Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	Must have fewer than 86 credits.
Other	Students who do not meet the requirements above or are not in good academic standing should schedule a meeting with CALS Dean on Call (https://go.wisc.edu/g85h79 (https://go.wisc.edu/g85h79/)) to discuss exceptions.

PROSPECTIVE UW-MADISON STUDENTS

All prospective UW–Madison students must apply through the Office of Admissions and Recruitment (https://www.admissions.wisc.edu/).

Students interested in this major should select it as the first choice major on their UW–Madison application. Admitted students who enroll at UW-Madison and attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the option to declare this major at SOAR. More information is available here (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/future-students/).

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 (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education	• 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 *

* 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 (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#CALSFirstYearSeminarCourses)		1
International studies (https://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") (https://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	College Algebra	
MATH 114	Precalculus	
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 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 621	Soil and Environmental Chemistry	
SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	
Select one of the following courses:		3
SOIL SCI 327	Environmental Monitoring and Soil Characterization	
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics	
Select one of the following courses:		3
SOIL SCI 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 430	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 1	
MATH 221	Calculus and Analytic Geometry 1	

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/BSE/ SOIL SCI 132	Water and People	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 120	Introduction to the Earth System	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 127	Physical Systems of the Environment	
GEOSCI/ ENVIR ST 106	Environmental Geology	
GEOSCI 202	Introduction to Geologic Structures	
SOIL SCI 131	Earth's Soil: Natural Science and Human Use	
SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	
Select at least one course from the following:		
GEOG/CIV ENGR 320	Geomorphology	
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST 324	Soils and Environmental Quality	
SOIL SCI 621	Soil and Environmental Chemistry	
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics	
PLANTSCI/ ATM OCN 532	Environmental Biophysics	
F&W ECOL/ LAND ARC/ ZOOLOGY 565	Principles of Landscape Ecology	
GEOG 578	GIS Applications	
Living Environment		**11**
Select one course from the following:		
PLANTSCI 300	Cropping Systems	
PLANTSCI 110	Introduction to Plant Science and Technology	
GEOG/ ENVIR ST 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems	
ZOOLOGY/ ENVIR ST 315	Limnology-Conservation of Aquatic Resources	
PLANTSCI 370	World Vegetable Crops	
AGROECOL 400	Study Abroad in Agroecology	
AGROECOL 370	Grassland Ecology	
SOIL SCI/ MICROBIO 425	Environmental Microbiology	
SOIL 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 Data	
SOIL 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	
SOIL SCI/ENVIR ST 575	Assessment of Environmental Impact	

F&W ECOL/ A A E 430	Decision Methods for Natural Resource Managers
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/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/ BSE 132	Water and People	
ATM OCN 101	Weather and Climate	
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/ F&W ECOL 451	Environmental Biogeochemistry	
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 and Environmental Chemistry	
SOIL SCI 622	Soil Physics	
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/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)		
PLANTSCI 300	Cropping Systems	3
or PLANTSCI 302	Forage Management and Utilization	
PLANTSCI 110	Introduction to Plant Science and Technology	4
PL PATH 300	Introduction to Plant Pathology	3-4
or ENTOM 351	Principles of Economic Entomology	
SOIL SCI 326	Plant Nutrition Management	3
A A E 101	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics	3-4
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/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition	
Total Credits		**30-36**

Turf and Grounds

Code	Title	Credits
Physical Environment		
Select one of the following courses:		3
ATM OCN 100	Weather and Climate	
ATM OCN 101	Weather and Climate	
SOIL SCI/ ATM OCN/ BSE 132	Water and People	
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
PLANTSCI/ 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
SOIL SCI 332		3
Specialized Sciences		7
Select 7 credits from the following courses:		
BOTANY/F&W ECOL 402	Dendrology: Woody Plant Identification and Ecology	
PLANTSCI/ LAND ARC 263	Woody Landscape Plant Identification, Culture, and Use	
BSE 301	Land Information Management	
ENTOM 351	Principles of Economic Entomology	
PLANTSCI/ PL PATH 262	Turfgrass Management Laboratory	
PLANTSCI 110	Introduction to Plant Science and Technology	
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 621	3	SOIL SCI 622	3
STATISTICS	3	SOIL SCI 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 COURSES/ELECTIVES	12		
	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 621	3	SOIL SCI 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

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

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 621	3	SOIL SCI 622	3
FOCUS AREA COURSES/ELECTIVES	6	SOIL SCI 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, 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.

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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://soilenvsci.wisc.edu/research-and-extension/research/), 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

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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 (https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/).