

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

Dr. Paul Woosley, Department Chair

Environmental Sciences & Technology Building
Office 269

Phone: 270-745-3151

Email: agriculture@wku.edu

Website: <http://www.wku.edu/agriculture> (<http://www.wku.edu/agriculture/>)

The complexity of the technological and financial structure of modern agriculture has made education increasingly important. It has also brought about a need for personnel to fill positions in various businesses and professions which support agriculture.

Processing and marketing of agricultural products and supplying agricultural chemicals, machinery, seed, feed, and other products require research, sales, and service personnel who have met specific educational requirements. Governmental agencies that conduct research, extension, advisory, and regulatory activities are staffed by highly trained agricultural personnel.

The Department of Agriculture and Food Science strives to fill the needs of both the student who requires general technical knowledge for production agriculture and the student who needs more specialized training to pursue one of many careers. This is accomplished by offering specific curricula with enough flexibility to allow specialization within various agriculture disciplines.

Many students studying agriculture have urban/suburban backgrounds with limited farm experiences. The Department of Agriculture and Food Science uses the Agriculture Research and Education Center (AREC) and Baker Arboretum as integral parts of its laboratory and classroom instructional program to provide practical experiences. Internships and cooperative work experiences are encouraged for all students.

To complete the 120 semester hours required for a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, students must complete the basic curriculum and one of the concentrations. The basic curriculum includes the Colonnade Program and specialty support requirements as well as basic professional courses in agriculture. These concentrations are Agribusiness, Agricultural Education, Agronomy (plant science or soil science), Animal Science, Horse Science, General Agriculture, Turf and Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Pre-veterinary Medicine, and Pre-forestry. These concentrations allow students to vary their course selection to better meet their particular area of interest. The student, in consultation with an assigned advisor, will choose specific courses in addition to the basic curriculum.

When planning a program of study, students should be aware of the University academic requirements and regulations contained in this catalog in the chapter "Academic Information." Specific attention should be given to the subsections in the chapter entitled (a) Academic Programs, (b) Colonnade Requirements, and (c) Academic Requirements and Regulations. Students should be aware that some academic programs may include additional scholastic regulations and standards not specified in the catalog. To obtain a copy of these regulations,

students should contact their faculty advisor or the Agriculture & Food Science office.

Agriculture majors who follow the listed guidelines can graduate in 4 years (8 semesters) or less.

Guidelines

1. Be advised by an assigned ACDC advisor and faculty advisor in the Department of Agriculture and Food Science each semester and enroll in the courses decided upon at the advising session.
2. Excluding remedial classes, receive a passing grade for an average of 15 hours per semester for 8 semesters with a minimum 2.0 GPA and a minimum total of 120 hours, including 42 or more hours upper-division (300- and 400-level) courses. Complete the Colonnade Program requirements of the department and the university. Note specific required mathematics, biology, and chemistry courses.
3. Deviation from any of these conditions might lead to the need for additional hours/courses and/or semester in order to graduate.

Degrees

- Agriculture, Bachelor of Science (508) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/agriculture/agriculture-bs/>)

Minors

- Agriculture, Minor (308) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/agriculture/agriculture-minor/>)

Certificates

- Floristry, Certificate (1769) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering/agriculture/floristry-certificate/>)

Faculty

Professor

Becky A. Gilfillen PhD (Plant and Soil Science), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1999

William T. William PhD (Plant & Soil Science), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1995

Paul B. Woosley PhD (Crop Science), University of Kentucky, 2002

Associate Professor

Jean D. Gumirakiza PhD (Economics), Utah State University, 2013

Stephen A. King PhD (Agricultural Economics), Oklahoma State University Main Campus, 2004

Thomas W. Kingery PhD (Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications), Texas A & M University, 2010

Martin J. Stone PhD (Agronomy), Texas A & M University, 1994

William D. Strunk PhD, University of Arkansas Main Campus, 2015

Assistant Professor

Phillip A. Gunter PhD (Animal Sciences), Auburn University, 2018

Luiz H. Pereira Silva PhD (Animal Science), Foreign College/University, 2018

Navdeep Singh PhD (Soil Science), South Dakota State University, 2020

Clinical Assistant Professor

Roger L. Dennis MAE (Agriculture Education, Secondary Education), Western Kentucky University, 1992

Clinical Associate Professor

Debra L. Shoulders DVM (Veterinary Medicine), Auburn University, 1994

Instructor I

Paige A. Smith MS (Agriculture), Western Kentucky University, 2017

Teacher Certification in Agricultural Education

Numerous job opportunities are available for students who have completed certification for teaching agriculture education in public schools at the middle or secondary level. A 2.5 minimum grade point average in agriculture, the Colonnade Program, and professional education is required for admission to teacher education. Students desiring to become certified to teach agriculture education in Kentucky public schools are required to have a minimum of 50 hours in agriculture including:

Code	Title	Hours
Select 6 hours of plant/horticulture science courses		6
Select 6 hours of animal science courses		6
AGMC 170 & AGMC 171	Introduction to Agricultural Mechanization and Introduction to Agricultural Mechanization Laboratory	3
AGMC 371 & AGMC 372	Agricultural Mechanics and Agricultural Mechanics Laboratory	3
AGEC 360	Agricultural Economics	3
AGEC 361	Farm Management	3
Select 6 hours of soil sciences courses		6
Select one of the following:		3
CSCI 145C	Introduction to Computing	
CIS 141	Analytics and Technology	
AGED/EDU 250	Introduction to Teacher Education in Agriculture ¹	3
PSY 310	Educational Psychology: Development and Learning ¹	3
SPED 330	Introduction to Exceptional Education: Diversity in Learning ¹	3
AGRI 398	Seminar ¹	1
AGED 470	Methods of Teaching in Agricultural Education ²	3
AGED 471	Organization and Planning in Agricultural Education ²	3
EDU 489	Student Teaching Seminar ³	2,3
LTCY 421	Content Area Reading in the Middle and Secondary Grades	3
SEC 490	Student Teaching ³	5-10
Total Hours		59-65

¹ Students must complete course before the fall semester of the senior year.

² Taught the fall semester.

³ Completed the student teaching semester, usually the spring semester.

Teachers hired in other states may be required to have other professional education coursework according to local regulations.