

AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Appraisal
 Consulting
 Risk Management
 Credit Analysis
 Retail Management
 Marketing
 Sales
 Public Relations
 Finance and Banking
 Economic and Policy Analysis
 Commodity Trading
 Farm Management

EMPLOYERS

Agricultural businesses
 Production industries
 Credit agencies, banks, brokers
 Real estate and appraisal services
 Public/private market analysis firms
 Farm information services utilizing mass communications
 County agricultural offices
 Purchasing/supply firms
 Feedlot operations
 Federal government
 Private foundations
 Farm cooperative services
 Feed and seed companies
 Self-employment

STRATEGIES

Plan on securing a masters or doctoral degree for advanced positions.
 Gain work experience in area of interest through internships, co-ops, or summer or part-time work.
 Get involved in campus and community organizations.
 Learn the federal job application procedure for government work.

EXTENSION/EDUCATION

Schools
 Extension services
 Agricultural agencies
 Agricultural communications and media firms
 Agribusinesses
 Government agencies

Obtain teacher certification for public school positions.
 Develop excellent writing and speaking skills.
 Take courses in economics and community development.
 Learn to work well with all types of people.
 Develop strong interpersonal skills.
 Be willing to live in rural communities for extension positions.

BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Power and Machinery
 Structures and Environment
 Electronic Systems
 Soil & Water Conservation
 Food Engineering
 Engineering Technology

Equipment design, testing, and manufacturing firms
 Equipment and food industries including: processing, packaging, and storing
 Quality control organizations for food, feed, or fiber
 Biotechnology research firms
 Environmental consulting firms
 Local, state, and federal government
 Public health service

Gain experience through co-ops or internships.
 Develop strong math skills and problem solving abilities.
 Earn an advanced degree for positions in research and development.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Research
Inspection
Farm Production and Management
Veterinary Science
Sales

Genetic research organizations
Agribusinesses: meat, poultry, feed
Government laboratories
Livestock producers
Feed companies; Feedlot operations
Supply and equipment industries
Extension services
Veterinary practices
Universities

Gain extensive laboratory and research experience.
Get experience in a veterinary medical practice and prepare for application to veterinary school.
Obtain knowledge of sales and business principles if interested in that area.
Develop good communication skills.

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Quality Assurance
Research
Food Chemistry and Microbiology
Manufacturing & Distribution

Food industry, including:
Processing plants
Quality control units
Manufacturing
Distribution
Government laboratories and regulatory agencies such as the USDA
Universities

Plan on securing advanced degrees for promotion.
Obtain laboratory and research experience.
Find a related internship.
Take additional courses in chemistry, biology, and microbiology.

FORESTRY

Forest Recreation
Resource Interpretation
Resource Management
Wood Products/Utilization

Local, state and federal government
Forestry Service
USDA
National and state parks
Reserves
Research Centers
Lumber, pulp, and paper industries
Private industry
Landowners
Nature centers

Develop physical stamina, resourcefulness, and outdoor skills.
Gain experience through volunteer opportunities or internships.
Be willing to relocate.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Law Enforcement
Conservation
Resource/Range Management
Wildlife/Fisheries Biology
Aquaculture

Local, state, and federal government including:
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
Wildlife refuges
Management areas
Private industries (e.g. aquaculture production firms)
County/municipal agencies
Foundations, museums, nature centers, zoos
Nonprofit organizations

Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills, and attention to detail.
Plan to earn a business minor or take additional communications courses including conflict management.
Earn a minor in criminal justice for game management.
Develop interpersonal skills.
Obtain paid or volunteer experience while in school.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES

Crop Production Management
Research
Environmental Science
Plant Breeding
Soil and Water Conservation
Soil and Plant Tissue Analysis
Pest Management
Farm Management
Sales

Extension services
Federal agencies
Agribusiness
Construction agencies
Plant propagation/production agencies
International agricultural agencies
Harvesting and fertilization manufacturers

Find a related internship.
Develop effective communication skills.
Supplement curriculum with courses in business, geology, entomology, or pathology depending upon interests.

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Growing/Production
Design
Landscape Construction
Nursery Management
Arboriculture
Turfgrass Management
Sales
Plant Therapy

Landscaping firms
Parks and amusement parks
Golf courses
Cemeteries
Large hotels and resorts
Industrial sites
Wholesale growers: nurseries, greenhouses, florists
Retail outlets
City and highway departments
Botanical gardens and arboretums
Floral designers
Government agencies: local, state, and federal
Colleges and universities
Self-employed
Health-related organizations and community centers

Get practical experience in the field through internships or summer and part-time jobs.
Develop skills in speaking, writing, and photography.
Minor in business if interested in management or self-employment.
Be prepared to work seasonally or move to a climate where more year-round opportunities are available.
Earn Registered Horticultural Therapist licensure for plant therapy.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- For entry-level positions, a bachelor's degree is sufficient. A master's or doctoral degree is often necessary for advancement. Some federal and private agency work, consulting positions, and especially research positions require a graduate degree.
- Obtain volunteer, part-time, summer, internship, or co-op experience in field of study.
- Develop excellent computer skills.
- Join a student club or student professional association to network and cultivate related academic interests.
- Many students apply to professional programs such as pharmacy, medical, or veterinary school with an agriculture and natural resources background.
- Majoring in two subject areas or pursuing a minor can increase marketability. For example, study in landscape design and business can lead to higher-level management opportunities.