

Agriculture

School of Agriculture, College of Business & Technology



Agriculture: A Signature Academic Program

Western Illinois University offers a number of standout programs. Noted for their size, unique areas of concentration for undergraduate students, or accessibility, Western's Signature Programs have garnered recognition for the graduates they produce.

Western has designated Agriculture as a Signature Program for the following reasons:

- Departmental and student service to the agricultural community throughout the region and state
- Numerous internship opportunities for students
- More than 15 active student organizations
- Hands-on experience with traditional, new, and organic crops, as well as with livestock, at WIU agriculture laboratories and agriculture test stations, as well as research at off-campus sites
- Numerous grants and an international reputation for animal and plant research

Major Program

Learning how to feed the world is the central theme of the three major program options and the three pre-professional programs that Agriculture students may choose to study. Students may choose to major in Agricultural Business, Agricultural Education, or Agricultural Science. Agricultural minors are available in Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Technology Management, Agronomy, Animal Science, Horticulture, Natural Resource Conservation, and Plant Breeding. Pre-professional programs in Forestry and Veterinary Medicine are also available. The pre-professional programs are designed to prepare students for professional study at other universities at the graduate level.

Faculty

The School of Agriculture's faculty members provide students with a unique blend of educational qualifications and work experience. Most full-time faculty hold doctoral degrees from a number of distinguished universities. All of the teaching faculty have extensive work experience, ranging from local farm management to international agricultural trade negotiations. The ability of faculty members to bring their extensive work experience to the classroom ensures that student learning will be relevant, practical, and reflect contemporary operational thinking.

Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available for Agriculture students, including the following: ADM (5), Rich Myers Scholarship, Growmark (3), Dr. John S. McVickar, Dr. Loren K. Robinson, Garrett Mooberry Scholarship, Ag Legacy (2), Dean and Sharon Chenoweth, Clarence Neff, Dr. John Reeves, Dr. Jerry Vigue, 1st Farm Credit, Dr. James Wehrly Agricultural Finance, and the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association.

Honors in Agriculture

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is

acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. Agricultural honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis supervised by a department faculty member.

Student Activities

Education for Agriculture students continues outside of the classroom. Through participation in a wide variety of agriculture-related activities, students learn responsibility and leadership skills. These activities include special interest clubs such as the Ag Council, Ag Mech Club, Agribusiness Club, Agronomy Club, Ag-Vocators, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA/Ag Education Club/PAS, Forestry Club, Hoof and Horn Club, Horticulture Club, and the Livestock Judging Team. Additional student-led organizations include Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Sorority, and Alpha Zeta Honor Fraternity.



Hands-on Learning

The School of Agriculture offers numerous hands-on learning experiences in classrooms, in laboratories, and in the field. Students and faculty work together with agribusinesses, in Western's agricultural field laboratories, and with Western's herds, applying state-of-the-art techniques and technologies to the challenges involved in making the world's food chain work. Students use the skills they have learned as they work in Illinois, elsewhere in the United States, and throughout the world.

Agricultural Field Labs

Western Illinois University has approximately 700 acres of cropped farmland in western Illinois. The principle teaching and research farm is the Agricultural Field Laboratory, located near the WIU campus in Macomb, Illinois. The Field Laboratory consists of over 400 acres, of which 270 acres are cropped with the remainder in pasture or woods. The Field Laboratory grows primarily corn and soybeans, with additional plantings of alternative crops such as kenaf, milk weed, cufea, pennycress, and other crops unique to western Illinois. In addition to the Agricultural Field Laboratory, Western leases approximately 80 acres of land (the Allison Farm) 18 miles north of Macomb for organic farming, research, and teaching.

The Agricultural Field Laboratory is also home to a substantial livestock teaching program. Active herds of cattle, swine, and sheep provide opportunities for comprehensive student exposure to all aspects of livestock management. Each year, the University also conducts the Bull Test to give students experience in collecting livestock performance data.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Students may internationalize their academic careers by completing an agricultural travel/study class to Australia, Brazil, China, or Russia. Students can participate in the many international activities held on campus or in other University Study Abroad programs. These experiences help to prepare students to take their places in the global arena.

After College

Agribusiness during the 21st century will become much different than current agribusiness. Increasing globalization and environmental scrutiny will have a fundamental impact on the management of the world's food chain—from the production of the commodity to its arrival with the final customer. It is the goal of the School of Agriculture to ensure that graduating students have the operational and strategic skills to meet those challenges.

For More Information

The School welcomes visitors. Call the School of Agriculture director at (309) 298-1080 or the academic adviser at (309) 298-2100. You can also learn more about the School by visiting wiu.edu/ag.

Academic Advising

Agriculture majors and minors are advised by a full-time academic adviser. Your adviser will help you plan your course of study and will advise you each semester. Transfer students from community and other four-year colleges and universities will work with the academic adviser to ensure that all requirements are completed. The adviser's phone number is (309) 298-2100.

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