

PLANT SCIENCES



For entry level positions in most areas of plant sciences, a bachelor's degree is sufficient. Depending upon specialty area, supplement curriculum with supporting courses: business, journalism, planning, geology, entomology, soils or biology. Take communications courses to develop oral and written skills. Majoring in two subject areas or pursuing a minor can increase marketability. For example, study in landscape design and business, or public horticulture and journalism, can lead to greater opportunities. Internship experiences with well-known organizations aid students when seeking employment.

A graduate degree may be necessary for advancement in some fields. Master's degrees allow for more opportunities in research and administration. Some community colleges will hire Master's level teachers. Doctoral degrees are necessary for advanced research and administrative positions, university teaching and independent research. Join professional associations and community organizations to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop networking contacts. Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors for graduate school admission. Consider completing a post-doctoral experience after graduate school. Meet with career center staff that can assist with government job searches.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Plant breeding
- Crop science
- Feedstocks
- Production and processing
- Regulation
- Consulting
- Plant tissue culture
- Plant breeding
- Genetic engineering
- Textiles (e.g., enzymes, novel fibers, medical)
- Bioinformatics

Biofuel companies
Colleges and universities
US Department of Agriculture
Environmental Protection Agency
Research organizations
Feedstock supply companies

Colleges and universities
Research organizations
Agricultural and pharmaceutical companies
US Food and Drug Administration
US Department of Agriculture
Environmental Protection Agency

Plant propagation and production businesses
Biotechnology companies
Agribusinesses
Harvesting companies
Agricultural chemical companies

COMMON EMPLOYERS



PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
- [American Horticulture Therapy Association](#)
- [American Phytopathological Society](#)
- [American Public Gardens Association](#)
- [American Society for Horticulture Science](#)
- [American Society for Landscape Architects](#)
- [American Society of Agronomy](#)
- [American Society of Plant Biologists](#)
- [Association of Professional Landscape Designers](#)
- [Botanical Society of America: Careers](#)
- [Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards](#)
- [Crop Science Society of America](#)
- [Golf Course Superintendents Association of America](#)
- [PLANET: Professional Landcare Network](#)
- [Soil Science Society of America](#)
- [Sports Turf Managers Association](#)
- [Weed Science Society of America](#)



STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Seek experience in the bioenergy field through research with faculty, internships, or part-time jobs.
- Build close relationships with faculty who can provide strong recommendations for graduate school.
- Maintain knowledge of current alternative energy and product industry trends and regulations.
- Supplement program with courses such as finance, marketing, management, etc. to increase understanding of business theory.
- Pursue a master's or Ph.D. for increased research opportunities.
- Gain practical laboratory, greenhouse or field experience in collaboration with professors and through internships.
- Join horticultural, agronomy clubs, or other student professional associations to network and cultivate related academic interests.
- A master's or doctoral degree may be necessary for advancement. Some federal and private agency and research positions require a graduate degree.
- Maintain a strong grade point average to be competitive for graduate school admission.