



## AGRONOMY

### Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences

Students in the Davis College are offered fields of study that complement a wide variety of careers. Programs are constantly being updated to reflect industry trends, and student initiative is strongly encouraged. Advising is conducted by faculty members, promoting mentorship. Many current students and alumni comment on the small-school feel of the Davis College, citing the individual attention from faculty, substantial extracurricular opportunities, and hands-on learning that enhance our academic experience.

The Davis College has 22 undergraduate major fields of study and a growing number of minors in the academic divisions of animal and nutritional sciences, design and merchandising, forestry and natural resources, plant and soil sciences, and resource management. Our programs allow for considerable flexibility, as several offer individual academic tracks depending on student interests and goals.

Instructional facilities and unique settings offer varied learning opportunities for students. The majority of classrooms, laboratories, design studios and offices are located on WVU's Evansdale Campus. The College also maintains eight farms, a campus greenhouse, and more than 8,000 acres of forest land for teaching and research. Hands-on experiences, service learning, undergraduate research and study abroad are strongly encouraged for students in every program.

Agronomy is the application of sciences to the production of field crops and the management of soils. Agronomists are concerned with producing food and protecting soil and water resources. The Agronomy Program at West Virginia University emphasizes crop science—the physiology, production, and quality of forage crops. The program also offers a turf emphasis for those students interested in weed science or turf grass management.

#### **Program Admission and Curriculum**

Students who meet University admission requirements may be accepted directly into the Davis College as Agronomy majors. To earn a bachelor's degree, all students must complete 128 credit hours, including the General Education Curriculum required by the University.

Examples of core courses within the major are soil science, grain and specialty crops, forage crops, entomology, microbiology, principles of animal science, genetics, and plant science. Students must also take 30 hours of crop science, soil science, economics, communication, and electives.

Students selecting the turf emphasis should take the following courses: turfgrass management, principles of weed control, and soil fertility. These students will also be required to complete an internship in turf grass management.

Complete course listings and descriptions can be found in the current *WVU Undergraduate Catalog*.

#### **Employment Opportunities**

Agronomy graduates qualify for a variety of occupations, including farming, soil conservation, agricultural sales, extension, research, and turfgrass management. Nearly three out of ten agricultural scientists work for the federal government, most for the Department of Agriculture, and a large number work for state governments. Average starting salaries for employees in non-supervisory and managerial positions range from \$26,000 to \$32,500.



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West Virginia University ♦ 2008-2009  
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### Majors in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences

Agribusiness Management & Rural Development:	B
Agricultural & Extension Education:	B, M
Agricultural & Resource Economics:	M
Agriculture, Forestry, & Consumer Sciences:	M
Agroecology:	B
Agronomy:	B, M
Animal & Food Science:	D
Animal & Nutritional Sciences:	B, M
Applied & Environmental Microbiology:	B
Biochemistry:	B
Design Studies:	B
Entomology:	M
Environmental & Natural Resource Economics:	B
Environmental Microbiology:	M
Environmental Protection:	B
Family & Consumer Sciences:	M
Fashion Design & Merchandising:	B
Forest Resources Management:	B
Forest Resources Science:	D
Forestry:	M
Genetics & Developmental Biology:	M, D
Horticulture:	B, M
Human and Community Development:	D
Human Nutrition & Foods:	B
Interior Design:	B
Landscape Architecture:	B
Multidisciplinary Studies:	B
Natural Resource Economics:	D
Plant & Soil Sciences:	D
Plant Pathology:	M
Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Resources:	B, M
Reproductive Physiology:	M, D
Resource Management:	D
Soil Science:	B
Wildlife & Fisheries Resources:	B, M
Wood Science & Technology:	B

B = Bachelor's; M = Master's; D = Doctorate

For more information, visit  
[www.davis.wvu.edu](http://www.davis.wvu.edu)

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