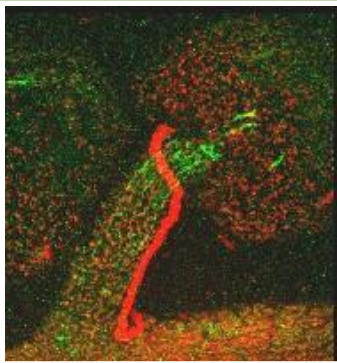


B.S., Plant Sciences



Plants and their associated microbes are fundamental to all aspects of our existence. Given the growth of the human population and the effects of this growth on the environment, research and training in the Plant Sciences has never been more critical. Coursework and optional research training prepare majors for post-graduate studies in research, medicine, and pharmacy, or careers in horticulture, agriculture, microbiology, or biotechnology.

For more information contact an advisor:

School of Plant Sciences
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Why major in Plant Sciences?



❑ **Spectacular career opportunities.** Our majors go on to graduate school, medical school, pharmacy school, and law school – or enter the workforce in horticulture, biotechnology, biofuels development, microbiology, computational biology, international development, ag-business, and sustainable agriculture.

❑ **An outstanding learning environment.** Our majors enjoy an interdisciplinary environment with small class sizes, a low student-to-faculty ratio, scholarships, internships, and opportunities for travel. Students gain hands-on experience in real-life applications of bioinformatics, genomics, molecular and cellular biology, microbial sciences, genetics, biotechnology, and plant breeding, propagation, and improvement.

❑ **Research and training opportunities in world-class facilities.** Plant Sciences majors engage in cutting-edge research and training in our internationally recognized centers, such as the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, iPlant Collaborative, Bio5 Institute, the University of Arizona Herbarium, and diverse field stations and agricultural centers.

❑ **A chance to change the world.** Plants feed, power, and medicate the planet. They are the foundation of global biodiversity and global climate – and key to our future. Plant Sciences majors are at the forefront of emerging technologies and global sustainability.

Plant Science Major Requirements 2020-21

General Education & Foundation Requirements	Course	Units
First Year Composition 1	ENGL 101	3
First Year Composition 2	ENGL 102	3
General Education, Tier 1	TRAD (160)	3
General Education, Tier 1	TRAD (160)	3
General Education, Tier 1	INDV (150)	3
General Education, Tier 1	INDV (150)	3
General Education, Tier 2	Humanities	3
General Education, Tier 2	Individuals & Societies	3
General Education, Tier 2	Arts	3
Diversity Emphasis	Any Gen Ed	0-3
Second language (2 nd semester proficiency)	Various (ex. SPAN 102)	0-8
Total		27-38
Math, Computation, & Communication	Course	Units
Calculus	MATH 113, 122B, or 125	3-5
Introduction to Statistics and Biostatistics	MATH 263	3
Science Communication (Choose 1)		3
Scientific Writing	ENVS 408	
OR Translating Environmental Science	OR ENVS 415	
OR Technical Writing	OR ENGL 308	
OR Applied Organizational Communication	OR COMM 312	
OR Business Writing	OR ENGL 307	
OR Communicating Knowledge in Ag & Life Sci	OR ALC 422	
Total		9-11
Foundation Science	Course	Units
General Chemistry 1	CHEM 151	4
General Chemistry 2	CHEM 152	4
Organic Chemistry 1	CHEM 241A	3
Organic Chemistry Lab 1	CHEM 243A	1
Biochemistry	BIOC 384	3
Introductory Physics 1	PHYS 102	3
Introductory Biology 1	MCB 181R	3
Introductory Biology 2	ECOL 182R	3
Total		24
Plant Science major	Course	Units
Plant Biology	PLS 240 [Fall]	4
Animal and Plant Genetics	PLS 312 [Spring]	4
Plant Growth and Physiology	PLS 360 [Spring]	3
Principles of Plant Physiology Lab	PLS 361 [Spring]	1
Plant Cell Structure and Function	PLS 359 [Fall]	3
Introductory Plant Pathology	PLP 305 [Fall]	3
Colloquium	PLS 195A [Fall]	1
Senior Capstone	PLS 498 [Spring]	2
Major Core Electives:		15
Plant Biochemistry and Metabolic Engineering	PLS 448A [Fall]	
Mechanisms in Plant Development	PLS 440 [Fall]	
Plant Genetics and Genomics	PLS 449A [contact dept]	
Plant Molecular Biology	PLS 358 [Spring]	
Origins of Food Plants	PLS 307 [Spring, even years only]	
Major Free Electives	see list below	14
Total		50

Plant Sciences Major Free Electives

Course Title	Number	Offered	Units
Genetics and Genomics			
Microbial Genetics	PLP 428R+L	S	3+2
Genomics	ECOL 326	F	3
Evolutionary Biology	ECOL 335	S	4
Molecular Genetics	MCB 304	S	5
Bioinformatics and Genomic Analysis	MCB 416A	F	3
Problem Solving with Genetic Tools	MCB 422	F, S	3
Population Genetics	ECOL 426	S	3
Plant Growth and Development			
Mechanisms in Plant Development	PLS 440	F	3
Plant Biochemistry and Metabolic Engineering	PLS 448A	S	3
Cell and Developmental Biology	MCB 305	F	4
Cell Biology	MCB 410	F, S	3
Molecular Biology	MCB 411	F, S	3
Developmental Mechanisms	MCB 455	F	3
Plant Pathology and Microbiology			
General Microbiology	MIC 205	F	3
Microbial Physiology	MIC 328	S	3
General Virology	PLS 333	F	3
Introductory Plant Pathology	PLP 305	F	3
Microbial Diversity	PLP 329	F	3
General Mycology	PLP 427R+L	F	3+2
Microbial Genetics	PLP428R+L	F	3+2
Antibiotics - A Biological Perspective	PLP 452	F	3
Plant Production			
Crop Science and Production	PLS 306	F	3
Plant Propagation, Production & Management	PLS 330	F	4
Introductory Plant Pathology	PLP 305	F	3
Soil and Plant Nutrition	ENVS 316	S	3
Turf and Landscape Technology	AGTM 330	S	3
Insect Pest Management	ENTO 468	F	3
Water and Soils			
Soil and Plant Nutrition	ENVS 316	S	3
Irrigation Principles and Management	ENVS 404	F, S	3
Soil Genesis, Morphology & Classification	ENVS 431	F	3
Water Harvesting	ECOL 454	S	3
Soil and Water Resources Engineering	ABE 455	F	3
Irrigation System Design	ABE 456	F	3
Soil and Water Conservation	ENVS 461	Su1/2 3	
Controlled Environment Production Systems			
Introduction to Hydroponics	PLS 217	F	3
Nursery Systems Management	PLS 339	F	3
Advanced GH Crop Production	PLS 397B	S	3
Physiology of Crop Production in CEA	PLS 475A	S	3
Applied Instrumentation in CEA	ABE 479	S	3
Irrigation Engineering	ABE 455	F	3
Irrigation System Design	ABE 456	F	3
Engineering Biological Processes	ABE 481A	F	3
Controlled Environment Systems	ABE 483	F	3
GH Pest Management	ENT/ABE 497C	F	3
Irrigation Principles and Management	ENVS 404	F, S	3

Plant Sciences Major Free electives (continued)

Biodiversity			
Systematic Botany	PLS 472	S	4
Microbial Diversity	PLP 329	S	3
Evolution of Plant Form and Function	ECOL 340	F, S	3
Biodiversity and the Tree of Life	ECOL 345	S	3
Phylogenetic Biology	ECOL 465	F	3
Conservation Biology	ECOL 406R	F	3
Biotechnology			
General Microbiology	MIC 205	F	3
Introduction to Biotechnology	PLS 340R	F	3
Plant Biotechnology Lab	PLS424L	S	2
Recombinant DNA Methods & Appl.	MCB 473	F, S	4
Microbial Genetics	PLP428R	S	3
Antibiotics- A Microbial Perspective	PLP 452	F	3
Plant Biotechnology			
Introduction to Biotechnology	PLS 340	F	3
Plant Biotechnology	PLS424R	S	3
Plant Biotechnology Lab	PLS424L	S	2
Internship in Biotechnology	PLS392/492	F, S, Su1, Su2	3
Metabolic Biochemistry	BIOC 385		3
Plant Biochemistry and Metabolic Engineering	PLS448A	F	3
Computation			
Great Ideas of the Information Age	ISTA100	F, S	3
Statistical Foundations for the Information Age	ISTA 116	S	3
Computational Thinking and Doing	ISTA 130	F, S	3
Sequence Data: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	ISTA 310	F	3
Resource Management			
Economics, Ethics & Environmental Mgmt	AREC 350	S	3
Water, Environment and Society	GEOG 304	F, S, Su1, Su2	3
Vegetation Management of Wildlands	RAM 446	S	3
Field Botany	RNR 230R/L	F (L, R); Su1, S (R)	3
Natural Resources Ecology	RNR 316	F	3
Natural Resources Measurements	RNR 321	S	3
Noxious, Invasive Plants of Arizona	RNR 400	Su1, Su2	3
Useful Wild Plants of Arizona	RNR 401	Su1, Su2	3
Sustainable Management of Arid Lands & Salt Affected Soils	ENVS 401	S	3
Air and Water	WSM 402	F	3
Natural Resources Management Practices	RNR384	S	3
Scientific Philosophy/Education			
Medicinal Plants	PLS 480	F	3
Philosophy of the Biol. Sciences	ECOL 421	S	3
Sonoran Desert Discovery	ECOL 464	F, S	3
Art of Scientific Discovery	ECOL 479	F, S	3
Additional Free Elective Courses			
Directed Research	PLS 392	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Internship	PLS 393	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Independent Study	PLS 399	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Honors Independent Study	PLS 399H	F, S	1 to 5
Preceptorship or Honors Preceptorship	PLS 491 or 491H	F, S	1 to 5
Directed Research	PLS 492	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Internship	PLS 493	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Honors Thesis	PLS 498H	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Independent Study	PLS 499	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5
Honors Independent Study	PLS 499H	F, S, Su1, Su2	1 to 5

Requirements for the Plant Sciences Minor

Plant Science minor requirement	Course	Units
Plant Biology	PLS 240	4
Animal and Plant Genetics	PLS 312	4
Plant Cell Structure and Function or Plant Growth and Physiology	PLS 359 or PLS360	3
Free electives	various	7

Summary of degree requirements

Plant Science minor requirements	11 units
Lab courses	2 units
Upper division courses	7 units
Required for PLS minor	18 units
Minimum minor GPA	2.0
Minimum minor credit taken in residence at UA	3 units

Approved Free Electives

ENTO 300	PLS 399	PLS 492
PLP 305	PLS 399H	PLS 493
PLS 195A	PLS 400	PLS 496D
PLS 195B	PLS 403	PLS 497F
PLS 217	PLS 410	PLS 498
PLS 217L	PLS 415	PLS 498H
PLS 245	PLS 424L	PLS 499
PLS 299	PLS 424R	PLS 499H
PLS 299H	PLS 428L	
PLS 303	PLS 428R	
PLS 306	PLS 429	
PLS 307	PLS 436	
PLS 312	PLS 440	
PLS 330	PLS 448A	
PLS 333	PLS 449A	
PLS 340	PLS 456	
PLS 340L	PLS 458	
PLS 359	PLS 467	
PLS 360	PLS 475A	
PLS 361	PLS 479	
PLS 392	PLS 480	
PLS 393	PLS 483	
PLS 397A	PLS 491	
PLS 397B	PLS 491H	

Career Opportunities for Plant Science Majors

Health Care-

- Physician- molecular and genomic medicine, plant-based pharmaceuticals, integrative medicine
- Dentist
- Veterinarian
- Pharmacist
- Medical Technician

Law-

- Patent or Corporate lawyer (Biotech/Ag Co.)

Biotech Industry-

- Biochemist
- Research technician or biologist
- Greenhouse or field manager
- Biological supplies product developer

Education and Academia-

- Professor
- Extension agent or specialist
- Technical staff (lab manager or researcher)
- School teacher or administrator
- Herbarium or living collections curator
- Greenhouse manager

Landscape Management-

- Landscape contractor
- Sod and seed production manager
- Sports turf (Athletic fields) manager
- Golf course superintendents & assistant
- Parks grounds supervisor

Publishing-

- Science editor, Science- or Technical writer

Professional Societies-

- Scientific society director, associate/administrator

Sales and Private Industry-

- Biotech, Ag. chemical or equipment sales rep.
- Nursery owner or manager
- Plant pathologist/ Epidemiologist
- Microbiologist
- Agricultural engineer
- Environmental scientist

Government-

- USDA, NSF and NIH agency position
- Research director or administrator
- National, state and local government state conservation and wildlife agent
- Agricultural inspector (USDA)

Science and Society/ Public Policy-

- Food-, Soil-, or Horticultural scientist
- Urban forestry manager or Arborist
- Soil and water conservationist
- Botanical garden – director, scientist, or educational program coordinator
- Government and private industry policy advocate
 - Conservation & environmental policy
 - Agricultural policy
 - Science policy

Sample Job Titles

Salary Range

Biotechnologist	\$33,650 - \$93,460
Biofuels Production Manager	\$52,600 - \$87,200
Agricultural Consultant	\$52,482 - \$89,116
Golf Course Superintendent	\$71,275 - \$81,004
Environmental Specialist, Government	\$35,000 - \$80,000
Life Science Research Associate	\$21,000 - \$61,000
Botanist	\$43,500 - \$61,500
Agricultural Sciences Teacher	\$43,500 - \$79,900
Green Marketer	\$42,700 - \$87,700
Horticulturist	\$42,000 - \$60,000
Agriculture Scientist	\$33,790 - \$59,520
Plant Scientist	\$35,900 - \$58,900

Salary Sources:

United States Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics (2010); DISCOVER (2011); Facts on File; Ferguson's Career Guidance Center (2011). For more information about careers and assistance in making your career plans, contact Career Services: career@email.arizona.edu; www.career.arizona.edu.