CROP SCIENCES

http://www.cropsci.illinois.edu

Head of the Department: G. A. Bollero
AW-101 Turner Hall
1102 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-0396
E-mail: sdcarson@illinois.edu

Major: Crop Sciences
Degrees Offered: M.S., Ph.D.

Major: Bioinformatics
Degrees Offered: M.S.
Graduate Concentration: Crop Sciences

Online Program: Crop Sciences
Degrees Offered: M.S.

Medical Scholars Program: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Crop Sciences
and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) through the Medical Scholars Program
(http://www.med.illinois.edu/mdphd)

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Crop Sciences offers programs leading to the
Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Great flexibility
exists for planning programs in various areas, and no rigid curricula are
prescribed. The following areas of specialization, along with some of the
corresponding disciplines, indicate the breadth of opportunities:

1. biological and agricultural sciences,
2. statistical, mathematical and computer sciences,
3. informatics and engineering sciences.

Graduates from the bioinformatics program will be able to integrate basic
and applied concepts in the three areas and apply them to biotechnology
and medical research. For additional information, please see our website
cropsci.illinois.edu/graduate/programs/ (http://cropsci.illinois.edu/
graduate/programs).

Admission

Applicants are considered for admission to the Master of Science
program if they have a bachelor’s or equivalent degree comparable to
that granted by the University of Illinois. Admission to the Ph.D. program
will be considered for applicants with the M.S., those nearing completion
of the M.S., and in some cases, those with the B.S. Because of the
diversity of programs in the Department of Crop Sciences, the preparation
that is needed varies considerably. Strong letters of reference, evident
motivation to undertake graduate study, and good preparation in basic
science courses enhance an applicant’s credentials. For some programs,
greater emphasis is given to previous training in plant
sciences, chemistry, or mathematics. A grade point average equivalent
to at least a B in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course
work plus any graduate level work completed is required. All applicants
whose native language is not English are required to submit the results
of the TOEFL or IELTS as evidence of English proficiency. Official
scores are required to be submitted directly from TOEFL/ETS or IELTS
to the University. Additional information for international applicants
can be found at: www.grad.illinois.edu/prospective/international.htm
(http://www.grad.illinois.edu/prospective/international.htm). Results
of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required for applicants
to all programs except the Online Master of Science degree program.
Please see our web page for additional information:
cropsci.illinois.edu/graduate/admission.

Medical Scholars Program

Please note applications are not being accepted at this time to the
Medical Scholars Program.

The Medical Scholars Program permits highly qualified students to
integrate the study of medicine with study for a graduate degree in a
second discipline, including Crop Sciences. Students may apply to the
Medical Scholars Program prior to beginning graduate school or while
in the graduate program. Applicants to the Medical Scholars Program
must meet the admissions standards for and be accepted into both
the doctoral graduate program and the College of Medicine. Students
in the dual degree program must meet the specific requirements for
both the medical and graduate degrees. On average, students take eight
years to complete both degrees. Further information on this program
is available by contacting the Medical Scholars Program, 125 Medical
Sciences Building, (217) 333-8146 or at www.med.illinois.edu/msp
(http://www.med.illinois.edu/msp).

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement,
experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate
experience in this program.
Faculty Research Interests

Please refer to the following webpage for a detailed listing of our faculty and their areas of interest cropsci.illinois.edu/directory/faculty (http://cropsci.illinois.edu/directory/faculty).

Facilities and Resources

The department of crop sciences has excellent laboratory, greenhouse, and field research facilities available for all types of research. A network of experimental locations throughout the state and cooperative arrangements with other states make thesis research possible under a wide range of environmental and climatic conditions. The department’s involvement in international programs may provide opportunities to conduct thesis research abroad. All phases of research, from bioinformatics, molecular biology and biophysics to field testing and crop production, are supported by state-of-the-art facilities. A map of the facilities can be seen at cropsci.illinois.edu/about/facilities (http://cropsci.illinois.edu/about/facilities).

Financial Aid

Fellowships and assistantships are available to outstanding students on a competitive basis. Awards for financial assistance are based principally on a candidate’s academic record, statement of plans, letters of reference, and GRE scores.

- Master of Science in Crop Sciences (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/crop-sciences/ms-crop)
- Master of Science in Bioinformatics, Crop Sciences Concentration (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/crop-sciences/master-science-bioinformatics)

Doctor of Philosophy in Crop Sciences

Students are required to pass a preliminary examination within five semesters of first enrolling, not including the summer terms, and after substantial completion of the Ph.D. graded coursework requirement. The preliminary examination is comprised of both an oral and written component and students are expected to defend their Thesis Proposal at the oral component of the examination. Those students on the BA to PhD plan must also pass a Qualifying Exam. An acceptable dissertation is required. Residence requirements are the same as those of the Graduate College.

Entering with approved M.S./M.A. degree

Minimum Graded Coursework approved by the graduate guidance committee not including CPSC 594 or CPSC 598, with a grade point average of at least a B.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>CPSC 594</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPSC 598</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPSC/PLPA 599</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Requirements

Other requirements and conditions may overlap

- Minimum 500-level Hours Required: 36
- Qualifying Exam Required: Yes
- Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
- Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required: Yes
- Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate handbook (http://cropsci.illinois.edu/sites/cropsci.illinois.edu/files/pdf/Grad_Student_Handbook_2013.pdf) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Entering with approved B.S./B.A. degree

Coursework approved by the graduate guidance committee not including CPSC 594 or CPSC 598, with a grade point average of at least a B.

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Other Requirements

Other requirements and conditions may overlap

- Minimum 500-level Hours Required: 36
- Qualifying Exam Required: Yes
- Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
- Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required: Yes
- Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes
- Minimum GPA: 3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate handbook (http://cropsci.illinois.edu/sites/cropsci.illinois.edu/files/pdf/Grad_Student_Handbook_2013.pdf) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

The Online M.S. in Crop Sciences program enables students to strengthen their education typically through part-time study, as most students are working professionals. Courses are delivered mainly through online and other distance education technologies and occasional site-based programming (site-based courses are optional and not required to complete the degree). The Crop Sciences online M.S. program is typically completed as a non-thesis degree, but a thesis option can be pursued pending Departmental approval. (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/crop-sciences/ms-crop) The program has a 30-plus year history of providing high quality University of Illinois courses and began granting off-campus MS degrees in 1986 to agriculture professionals across Illinois, as well as in neighboring states. Students may enroll in...
individual courses for personal or professional advancement or may apply for admission to the master’s degree program in Crop Sciences. Students who successfully complete three qualifying courses may also receive a Professional Development Certificate in Crop Sciences.

The Online M.S. in Crop Sciences program also works in conjunction with the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Online M.S. program and the Agriculture Education Online M.S. program to offer a diverse set of courses. The Department of Crop Sciences is looking to the future and the needs of non-traditional students. Therefore, new courses are continually in development for online delivery and blended formats. A student may complete their entire degree requirements online from anywhere in the world and they are available to in-state students and out-of-state students at the same tuition rates. For more information on Crop Sciences, the Online M.S. in Crop Sciences degree program or certificate offerings, please visit cropssci.illinois.edu/online-program (http://cropssci.illinois.edu/online-program).