



ILLINOIS

The Online M.S. in Crop Sciences Program

is offered by the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in partnership with the Division of Academic Outreach. The degree has broad appeal and can be finished completely online or through a combination of online and optional site-based blended laboratory courses on scheduled weekends. Coursework is tailored to meet your specific needs in consultation with an advisor and an Advisory Committee. Courses are taught in real time over the Internet during evening hours. The courses are equivalent to those taught on campus, with necessary adjustments for different learning platforms. The M.S. degree earned in the online program is equivalent to an M.S. degree earned on campus, except that a thesis is not required for the online M.S. program. A comprehensive oral exam at the end of the program of study is required for graduation.

You may also enroll in individual courses for professional or academic advancement instead of applying for formal admission to the program. Students who successfully complete three approved courses (with a grade of B- or better) also qualify for a Professional Development Certificate in Crop Sciences.

Why Illinois?

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a rich agricultural tradition from which every student benefits. Established in 1867, it is one of the original 37 public land-grant institutions enacted by the Morrill Act in 1862. The Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's mission is to develop and deliver educational and research programs that foster the creation and adoption of agricultural plant production systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, socially responsive, and sustainable. Award-winning instruction, internationally renowned research, and statewide extension expertise are the hallmarks of the department.



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Department of Crop Sciences
AW101 Turner Hall, MC-046
1102 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Departmental Program Web site: www.cropsci.illinois.edu/ocgs

Our program will give you

- the benefit of the University of Illinois' excellence in crop sciences through distance education for over 30 years
- a great deal of flexibility; coursework may be tailored to your specific needs
- a knowledge base that will serve you well in a variety of career paths

Our students

The online M.S. in Crop Sciences program serves all types of students well. Our students are interested in a variety of agricultural topics including the fundamental and practical aspects of growth and development of field, forage, and horticultural crops; plant breeding; crop and pest management; soil and water sciences; and other allied fields of study. Some of our students enter the program to advance their education after completing a bachelor's degree in a related area, while others are looking for a career change. Students may take individual courses for professional development or complete the entire degree. Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) can also take graduate-level courses for continuing education units (CEUs).

Admissions requirements

To be admitted into the program, you must

- have a B.S. degree in crop sciences or a related biological, physical, or agricultural field
- have done coursework in mathematics, chemistry, biological sciences, and introductory crop and soil sciences

You must also have

- a grade point average (GPA) of "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) computed from the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework (limited status exceptions may be made with specific requirements)
- an application statement
- official transcripts from accredited colleges and universities attended
- three letters of recommendation

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required. A Crop Sciences committee reviews all applications on a case-by-case basis; students with deficiencies may be accepted conditionally.

An online application is available at www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply, and additional details are available through the department. If you take one to two courses each semester (a course load typical for most of our students with full-time employment), you can expect to complete the program in two to three years.

Program contacts

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Departmental Program Web site:
www.cropsci.illinois.edu/ocgs

"The Off-Campus/Online Crop Sciences M.S. program was a great fit for me. I knew that I wanted to get an advanced degree and begin my career at the same time and enjoyed taking the evening classes with other working professionals."

—Kelli A. Bassett, Area Agronomist, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

"This was one of the best educational experiences I have ever participated in. I was able to learn from and interact with University of Illinois professors without the need to drive to campus."

—Ron Lloyd, US Lead for Agronomy and Learning Centers, Monsanto