

Graduate Handbook

Agronomy Department

Revised Fall 2026

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Department of Agronomy at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Agronomy is a discipline dedicated to addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges in agriculture, natural resources, and environmental sustainability. Our students are driven by a desire to advance scientific knowledge, improve agricultural systems, and contribute to the wellbeing of communities locally and globally. Graduates of the UF/IFAS Agronomy Department have gone on to become leaders in research, education, industry, and government, making meaningful contributions throughout Florida and around the world.

The department offers graduate programs leading to the Master of Science (thesis and non-thesis) and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Graduate coursework in Agronomy and related disciplines provides students with a strong scientific foundation while supporting advanced research and professional development. Through close collaboration with faculty advisors, students develop the knowledge, skills, and critical thinking necessary to address complex challenges facing modern agriculture.

Our faculty are internationally recognized scholars who maintain active research, teaching, and extension programs across a wide range of disciplines. Graduate education in Agronomy emphasizes both the discovery of new knowledge and the application of scientific principles to improve crop production, environmental stewardship, and agricultural sustainability in Florida, the United States, and beyond.

As a land-grant institution with a strong global perspective, UF/IFAS Agronomy places special emphasis on tropical and subtropical agricultural systems. Students may have opportunities to engage in research and collaborative projects that extend beyond Florida, including international experiences that support their academic and professional goals when appropriate to their program of study.

We are pleased to welcome you to our graduate community and look forward to supporting your success as a scholar, researcher, and future leader in agronomy.

This handbook provides information for graduate students and faculty on the policies and requirements of the Agronomy Department and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). It also includes information related to the requirements of the Florida Board of Education, the University of Florida Board of Trustees, and the University of Florida. This handbook serves as a companion to The University of Florida's [Graduate Student Handbooks](#), published by the Graduate School.

In this handbook you will find links to different resources and departments within the University that you may interact with throughout your graduate career. Please take the time to explore the many resources and opportunities made available to you.

The department's handbook does not replace the [Graduate School Catalog](#), which contains the official information concerning UF rules, regulations, course descriptions, degree requirements, etc.

Students – you are responsible for staying informed and on track in your academic program. Faculty and staff are here to assist you in meeting all your academic requirements and milestones, but you must take responsibility for making timely progress toward completing your degree.

Whether your interests lie in crop science, agroecology, plant breeding, data analytics, or weed science, the Agronomy Department offers diverse opportunities for graduate study and research.

Graduate Programs offered by the UF/IFAS Agronomy Department

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Master of Science Degree (Thesis and Non-thesis)

Research Program Areas:

Agroecology (concentration for online degree)

Crop Physiology, Nutrition, and Management

Forage and Grassland Ecology and Management Plant Breeding, Genetics, & Genomics

Statistical Methods/Data Analysis/AI Applications

Weed Science & Ecology – Terrestrial & Aquatic

Concentration options:

Ph.D. Global Systems Agroecology

M.S. Agroecology (Thesis or Non-thesis, 100% Distance or On-Campus)

Agroecology students can access information about the program at:

<https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/students/online/agroecology/> or by contacting Dr. Rose Koenig (rlkoenig@ufl.edu)

Certificates offered by the UF/IFAS Agronomy Department

Sustainable Agroecosystems

Tropical Agriculture

Weed Science

Graduate Students Rights and Responsibilities

Graduate students on assistantship are represented by the [Graduate Assistants United](#) union. The UF Graduate Assistants Union contract describes your rights and responsibilities. Graduate assistants are responsible for assigned duties from either their research advisor or the Graduate Coordinator, depending on the source of financial support. This assigned work will be specified in the initial letter of appointment and may be in addition to work done on a student's own research. Research advisors may set specific work hours for the assigned work. Students, including those on fellowships or with other sources of support, may have responsibilities in their advisors' research, extension, and education programs, that are required for the mutual success of their and their advisors' research projects. Graduate study is a time-intensive commitment and may include evening and/or weekend obligations. Students are committed, outside of their assistantship duties, to classes, research, seminars, and service. Students must make arrangements with their faculty advisors for any changes to this requirement or any absences – including those during university holidays. Please carefully read the University leave policy which is found in Section 8 of the [agreement](#) between the University of Florida Board of Trustees and Graduate Assistants United 201721-202023.

Further helpful information, including grievance procedures, can be found at the [Dean of Students' Office](#) website.

Discrimination and Bias

Our department has zero tolerance for discrimination or bias against any individual or group. There are established methods recommended by UF and [IFAS Human Resources](#) for reporting instances of bias, discrimination, or harassment. They are described [here](#) and [here](#). The person who has been harmed may seek an informal resolution by speaking directly to their supervisor or, if their supervisor is the source of their complaint or concern, to their supervisor's supervisor. Students should talk to the Graduate Coordinator or department chairperson for guidance. If an informal resolution is not possible, the harmed person should contact IFAS HR or the appropriate office listed at the web link above with a request to investigate the concern informally or formally.

Helping Resources

Graduate school can be a stressful, and exciting, time in a student's life. We can direct you to resources to help you deal with issues that are concerning you and impeding your success in graduate school. Feel free to talk to your Graduate Advisor, or to Dr. Kenworthy for advice on how to get the most out of your Agronomy graduate student experience and look into these resources.

- [U Matter/We Care](#)
- [Career Connections Center](#)
- [Graduate School Student Support](#)
- [Graduate School Self-Care and Wellness](#)
- [Graduate School Resources List](#)
- [UF Student Legal Services](#)

Rooms in McCarty Hall complex for Agronomy Graduate Students

- Agronomy Administrative Offices – McCarty B, Room 3105: Contact to reserve Conference Rooms and Departmental Vehicles; reserve office for TAs to proctor exams or meet students. See Faculty and Staff page for contact information.
- Agronomy Conference Room with IT Equipment – McCarty B, Room 2108: Reserve for video conference meetings, presentations, exit seminars, and final exams. Comfortably seats 16.
- Agronomy Commons Breakroom – McCarty B, Room 3123: A refrigerator, microwave, tea/coffee maker, and eating table are provided for Agronomy personnel and students to take breaks and enjoy community. Please review posted rules of this space. Contact office staff for room code.
- CALS Computer Classroom – McCarty B, 3086: If not occupied with a class, then it may be used for study.
- CALS Collaboration Room – McCarty D, Room 2022: From 8am – 5pm it is available to all CALS students as a break room for conversation, eating, study, club meetings, etc. The room has a table and chairs to seat 45 people and a kitchen. It may be reserved for Student Club meetings through CALS main office for day or evening.
- CALS Classrooms that may be reserved for student club symposia or seminar: MCCD G001, MCCB 3096, MCCB 3108 – contact the Department’s Course Scheduler for guidance.

Vehicles

To reserve a Department Electric Car, contact Alexia Craig (alexia.craig@ufl.edu) or Ken Baker (baker.k@ufl.edu). Familiarity with policy and procedures of operating UF-owned vehicles and machinery is required. A copy of the student’s driver’s license must be on file with the Department prior to operating a department vehicle.

Libraries

Scientific literature is housed in the George A. Smathers Libraries (Marston Science Library and the Health Sciences Library, (<https://uflib.ufl.edu>)). Much of the holdings of the Smathers Libraries can be accessed from off-campus by any student with a Gatorlink account using the UF VPN Service (<https://uflib.ufl.edu/using-the-libraries/off-campus-access/>).

Bibliographic Searches

Finding relevant literature is vastly aided by computer searches of electronic databases (<https://uflib.ufl.edu>). Web of Science is particularly useful. Librarians in the Marston Science Library teach courses that will help students devise a search program and provide advice on the use of databases.

Mail and Package Deliveries

If located on main campus, your mail can be sent to the main agronomy office (P.O. Box 110500). The mail will be sorted to your advisor’s mailbox. Each student is responsible for providing Alexia Craig (Academic Assistant) her/his forwarding address/advisor’s P.O. Box. Number. Please check your mail regularly and pick up your packages in a timely manner.

Academic Honesty, Plagiarism, and Responsible Conduct of Research

Please read the [student honor and conduct code](#) in its entirety. All students must adhere to this code.

Plagiarism is a serious problem in academia today. Plagiarism is defined as representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own, without attribution to the source. All words and ideas must be attributed to a source unless they are considered common knowledge (i.e., widely known by many people and found in many different sources). There are many kinds of plagiarism. One of the most common forms is insufficient paraphrasing. Even with attribution, you may be guilty of insufficient paraphrasing because your sentence too closely follows the content and structure of the cited author's sentence. In some countries, it is an acceptable practice to write in a manner that faculty members at the University of Florida considers being plagiarism. Students studying in our university and with plans to publish their research in the English language need to know what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Please look at [this reference](#) to learn about ways to avoid plagiarism.

Responsible Conduct of Research involves properly handling data, including its collection, storage, management, sharing, and authorship attribution. Any falsification of data, including changing or falsely generating names, dates, measurements, etc., are unethical. To learn more about acceptable research practices, see these [UF Graduate School Resources](#).

Both plagiarism and unethical conduct of research are unethical, unacceptable in science, and prohibited by the UF Student Honor Code. The consequences for violating the student honor code while at the University of Florida range from receiving a grade of zero for a plagiarized or falsified assignment or a failing grade for the course to, for repeated offenses, expulsion from the university. These unethical practices call into question one's scientific integrity and can lead to banning of publication in journals and the loss of jobs/careers.

Table of Contents

Agronomy Department

Graduate Student Handbook

INTRODUCTION	2
GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES OFFERED BY AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT	3
GRADUATE STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	4
DISCRIMINATION AND BIAS	4
HELPING RESOURCES.....	4-5
PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY	6
TABLE OF CONTENTS	7-8
GRADUATE STUDENT CHECKLIST	9-11
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	12-13
AGR GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.....	12-13
Departmental Assistantships, Awards, Scholarships, Grants.....	12-13
Sources of Travel Funds for Graduate Students	13
Work Requirements for Assistantship Holders.....	14
Stipends and Benefits	14
Cancellation of Assistantships	14
Outside Employment for Students on Assistantships	14
Awards and Scholarships	14
Employee Education Program	15
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	15
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS	16
COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS	16
REGISTRATION.....	16-17
DROP/ADD.....	17
SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY (S/U) GRADING	17
PROGRAM OF STUDY	18
LETTER OF APPOINTMENT	18
EVALUATION	18
AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS	19-20
GRADUATE COURSES	21-22
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE	22
Non-thesis	23
Thesis.....	24
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE	25-26
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS	27
MEMBER ROLES/ELIGIBILITY	28
GRADUATE CERTIFICATES	29-30
COMBINED, DUAL, OR JOINT DEGREES	31
RESEARCH PERFORMED ELSEWHERE	32

EDITORIAL STANDARDS	33
FACULTY AND STAFF	34-36
FORMS	37

Graduate Student Checklist

Note: The student is responsible for fulfilling all academic requirements and meeting all deadlines. Many of the forms you need are posted on our website. Check the site first before reaching out to the Academic Assistant, Alexia Craig (alexia.craig@ufl.edu).

REQUIREMENT	WHAT / WHEN / WHERE
1. Attend Agronomy (AGR) orientation	A required AGR Orientation is scheduled for the week before/of classes beginning each Fall and Spring Semester
2. Review Agronomy Graduate page , and UF Schedule of Courses	Upon acceptance to UF - review the Agronomy Graduate webpage to review listed courses and syllabi
3. Meet with faculty advisor to determine courses to take the first semester	Before arrival; as soon as admitted
4. New Students: Attend Graduate School and International Student orientation sessions	You have been notified of date, time, and place.
5. Complete payroll and appointment forms for an assistantship, if appropriate	By appointment with your REC Human Resources (HR) staff member, or if located in GNV – Ken Baker baker.k@ufl.edu (352) 294-1585
6. Student ID card (Gator 1)	Upon arrival – Reitz Union Welcome Center. REC students may apply online https://businessservices.ufl.edu/services/gator-1-card/
7. Parking permit	Upon arrival – Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) Student Permits
8. Key to building and your lab	Supervisor must email Human Resources (HR) staff member with approval to provide keys to you. See the HR staff member to pick up your keys once approved. If located in GNV – Ken Baker baker.k@ufl.edu (352) 294-1585
9. Register for classes	Online at one.ufl (late registration fee is \$100.00; late payment fee is \$100.00) – if AGR courses, fill out the course registration request form
10. Violence Prevention course (required)	Required by UF during your first semester: https://titleix.ufl.edu/training/student-training/violence-prevention-hold/

11. Supervisory committee	Completed no later than the end of the second semester; send completed form to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kevin Kenworthy kenworth@ufl.edu
12. Transfer of credit	Contact Academic Program Specialist, Lorraine White whitelm@ufl.edu , to submit master's transfer credit petitions during the first term of enrollment. An official M.S. transcript must be on file with UF Admissions Office before processing
13. Program of study	Submit the Program of Study PDF to the Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kevin Kenworthy kenworth@ufl.edu , by the end of the second term
14. Individual Development Plan (IDP) Ph.D. students only	Complete and submit the IDP annually during the spring semester; submit document to Academic Assistant, Alexia Craig alexia.craig@ufl.edu , no later than the last Friday in August
15. Oral and written research proposals	Ph.D. students must complete theirs by the second to fourth semester and at least one semester before the qualifying exam. Submit the written proposal to the supervisory committee at least 10 days before the oral presentation. Contact the Academic Assistant, Alexia Craig alexia.craig@ufl.edu, for room reservations, if needed. Students are responsible for creating the Zoom link and sharing the link and room reservation with their committee.
16. Evaluations	Student evaluations are conducted each Spring semester.
17. Ph.D. qualifying exam; written and oral	Should be completed no later than the third to fifth semester of graduate study beyond M.S.; arrange date and time with supervisory committee as early as possible; provide the Academic Program Specialist, Lorraine White whitelm@ufl.edu, with title, date, and time at least 10 days prior to date. Contact the Academic Assistant, Alexia Craig alexia.craig@ufl.edu, for room reservations, if needed. Students are responsible for creating the Zoom link and sharing the link and room reservation with their committee.
18. Admission to candidacy for Ph.D.	Form submitted to Graduate School upon satisfactory completion of oral qualifying exam

19. Doctoral research registration	AGR7980 (Doctoral Research credit) may be used only after qualifying exam has been passed
20. Review of guide for Preparation of Thesis and Dissertation	Review the Guide for Preparation of Theses, Dissertations, and Publications
21. Application for degree	Check degree application deadline; must apply for degree each term you expect to graduate. Usually first 2 weeks of semester.
22. Defense preparation	Provide your thesis/dissertation, defense title, date, time, and Zoom link to committee members and Academic Program Specialist, Lorraine White whitelm@ufl.edu , at least two weeks before your defense. Review Graduate School defense deadlines: Graduate School Deadlines
23. First submission	Submit the first draft of your thesis or dissertation by the Graduate School deadline. See Graduate School Deadlines
24. Final exam and defense	Schedule your defense and final exam with your committee as early as possible. Provide Academic Program Specialist, Lorraine White whitelm@ufl.edu , with the date, time, and Zoom link so final exam documents can be prepared. Signed documents must be returned via DocuSign before final exam results are entered in GIMS/SIS.
25. Exit interview with department graduate coordinator	Interview with the department Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Kevin Kenworthy kenworth@ufl.edu . Exit interview forms will be completed by student and sent to Dr. Kenworthy with request to schedule your exit interview.
26. Return all keys issued by the department	As soon as possible, with your REC Human Resources (HR) staff member, or if located in GNV – Ken Baker baker.k@ufl.edu (352) 294-1585

Financial Assistance

Below is a list of potential funding opportunities for students. All opportunities have certain restrictions so review each one to see if they apply to your degree program.

AGR Graduate Assistantship Opportunities

The following opportunities exist to support MS (thesis) and PHD Graduate Assistants. Students do not apply for these directly, rather, they must have an AGR faculty member who is willing to supervise them submit a nomination along with a letter of support for Fall semester admissions only. Students should speak to potential supervisors about these opportunities.

- CALS Dean's Awards
 - There is one competitive award provided by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS Dean's Award) available on a highly competitive basis for students seeking a Ph.D.
 - Nominees must be seeking a doctoral degree, and the start of their program must be the Fall semester.
 - Students awarded CALS Dean's Awards must have been accepted by our department but not yet enrolled.
 - Fellowship holders are considered to be ½ time graduate students and must register each semester for the number of credits that are required for ½ time graduate students.
 - The Graduate Committee selects outstanding students for these fellowships. Nominations and complete applications are due on January 15th of each year.
 - A faculty member may submit one nomination annually for this award.
- Paul Robin Harris Memorial Scholarship
- C.E. Dean Scholarship
- Agronomy-Soils Club
- Association for Academic Women
- ASA/CCSA Mott Award

UF Scholarships, Assistantships, Fellowships

- CALS - <https://cals.ufl.edu/scholarships/>
- Bridge to the Doctorate Fellowship
- FAMU Feeder Program
- Graduate School
- McKnight Doctoral Fellowships
- McNair
- Tropical Conservation Development
- UF/Santa Fe College Faculty Development
- UF Water Institute

Other UF Scholarships

- Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Award
- Dolores Auzenne Dissertation Award

- Graduate School Supplemental Retention Scholarship
- Southern Regional Education Board

Non-UF Scholarships/Grants

- Annie's Sustainable Ag Scholarship
- Biodiversity International
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Explores Club
- Florida Sea Grant Scholarships
- Horticulture Research Institute
- Marshall Scholarships
- Midsouth Aquatic Plant Management Society
- Modelling Complex Ecological Dynamics
- National Science Foundation
- OAS Scholarships
- Open Education Database
- Rotary Foundation
- Rufford Foundation Small Grants
- SARE
- Sidney B. Meadows
- Syngenta Agricultural Scholarship
- Toomey Foundation

Women Only

- AAUW
- Graduate Women in Science
- P.E.O.
- The Woman's National Farm and Garden Association

Career Readiness; Post Graduation

- CALS Career Resource
- OPT
- UF Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, Post Doc jobs bank
- Schmink Dissertation Award
- IFAS Research Award for Best Dissertation and Best Thesis
- Science Magazine's "Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists"

UF Travel Grants (for Study Abroad/Travel to Conferences for Presentations)

- CSRA Travel Scholarships
- CALS Study Abroad Scholarships
- CALS James Davidson and/or IFAS/CALS
- TCD Field Research Grant
- UFIC Travel/Research Abroad
- UF Graduate Student Council

Work Requirements for Graduate Assistantship Holders

Assistantships are half (50%) time. Recipients of these 0.5 FTE assistantships are obligated to work 20 hours a week at whatever assignments their advisors designate. Students supported from a faculty research grant usually must perform work according to their grant stipulations. For CALS awards and AGR departmental assistantships, the Graduate Coordinator, in consultation with the supervisor, determines the work to be done, which usually includes a combination of assisting with courses and laboratory or field research.

Stipends and Benefits

All stipends must meet the Graduate School's minimum stipend level. Students on assistantships are provided a tuition waiver and individual health insurance. Your stipend amount can be found on the LOO and LOA.

Cancellation of Assistantships

A Letter of Appointment, signed by the student and the advisor, is issued to the student each semester and becomes a contract. Neither the department nor a faculty member may cancel an assistantship prior to the end of the contract without cause. The cause is usually in the form of unsatisfactory progress in the degree program documented in the semester graduate student semester evaluation form. The student may cancel the contract prior to the end of the contract but then becomes liable for tuition that was waived while on the assistantship. Until those financial obligations are settled, the student cannot register, cannot get a transcript, and cannot graduate.

Outside Employment for Students on Assistantships

The department discourages students on assistantships from holding outside employment. If this becomes necessary, please obtain permission from your advisor before seeking other employment. There are restrictions related to outside employment. Students must make an appointment with the HR liaison and their faculty advisor to obtain permission before seeking other employment.

Awards and Scholarships

A number of scholarships, usually ranging from \$500 to \$3000, are awarded from endowment funds provided by clubs, professional societies, etc. Most of these, such as those awarded by the Agricultural Women's Club, are awarded on the basis of scholarship and service to the department and community. Students must be nominated by a faculty member for these scholarships, and a letter from the advisor must be included in the application packet. More information will accompany the annual call for nominations for each award.

Employee Education Program

The Employee Education Program, or EEP, is an opportunity funded by university resources that enables full-time UF Academic Personnel, TEAMS employees, and USPS employees who have been employed in good standing for at least six months to receive tuition assistance for up to six credit hours of instruction per semester at the state university closest to their work location. TEAMS employees may also attend classes at a public community or state college closest to their work location. View University of Florida information about EEP here: <https://hr.ufl.edu/professional-development/eep/>

EEP application process does not replace admissions or registration processes. The EEP is simply the process by which employees may obtain assistance in paying for coursework. EEP participants must review the program policy, eligibility criteria, and registration guidelines. Any employee interested in participating should review the institution's admissions policies and procedures in order to ensure proper enrollment for courses.

State Agency Employees - Full-time state employees who have been admitted to a degree or non-degree seeking status are eligible for a fee waiver of up to six credits of UF courses per academic semester. The [State Agency Employee Tuition Fee Waiver](#) form is not an application for admission, nor is it a request for registration; it is a waiver of course fees that must be turned in to Office of the University Registrar.

International Students

International students may be funded by opportunities listed above or by their home institutions, governments, or organizations such as OAS (Organization of American States), IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), or by faculty from grants.

International students on a UF graduate-sponsored assistantship will be provided a stipend, a tuition waiver, and individual health insurance (<https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/evs/j-1-students/health-insurance/> and <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/iss/obtaining-f-1-status/health-insurance/>). There may be other financial requirements associated with obtaining your visa.

Please visit the University of Florida's International Center for current information: <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu>

Degree Requirements

Note: It is the responsibility of the student to observe all regulations and procedures required by the program he/she is pursuing. The Graduate Catalog is the ultimate authority on regulations and procedures (<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/>). Ignorance of a rule does not constitute a basis for waiving that rule.

Completion of Degree Requirements

All students are expected to complete degree requirements and graduate within a reasonable time. An M.S. with thesis is typically earned in two years (6 semesters), and a Ph.D. degree in three to four years (9-12 semesters) after the master's degree. However, since research is not predictable, it often takes longer to complete the M.S. and Ph.D. requirements.

All work counted towards a master's degree or Graduate Certificate must be completed during the seven years immediately preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded. All work for the Doctorate's degree must be completed within five calendar years after the qualifying examination. Graduate students are generally expected to complete requirements and receive these respective degrees in considerably shorter periods of time.

Registration

The Registrar enforces these deadlines: Students enrolled at the University of Florida must pre-register for the next semester during the regular registration period. You must be registered by 4:00pm the day before classes, or, if classes start on a Monday, you must be registered by 4pm the previous Friday. If you are not registered by this time, you will incur a late registration fee of \$100.00. If you do not pay your fees on time, the charge for late payment of fees is \$100.00. To avoid these charges, register on time and pay fees on time.

The Agronomy Department encourages early registration. This is particularly important if you wish to take a popular course in another department as the course may fill before you can register. By registering early, you will have a good chance of getting a seat in a class with limited enrollment. If you need special accommodations, we will need to obtain this for you. Students on an assistantship must register for 9 credits each fall and spring and 6 in the summer. Your tuition waiver will not pay for more than this. If you choose to register for more courses than what is covered by the assistantship tuition waiver, you will need to use another source of funding (personal, grants, scholarship, etc.) to cover the additional courses.

Enrollment in our graduate courses are departmentally controlled, and you will not be able to enroll on your own through One.UF. We control enrollment because students that are enrolled in our on-line programs, located at Research and Education Centers, or on campus incur different charges. Students must register for Agronomy's departmentally controlled courses through the registration form: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kPXSKxdX1zR5ae

Table 1. Minimum Number of Credits for Full-Time Registration

	Fall and Spring	A	&	Summer B or C	
Full-time graduate students not on assistantship	9-12	3		3	6
Assistants on 0.01-0.24	12	4		4	8
Assistants and fellows on 0.25-0.74	9	3		3	6
Assistants on 0.75-.99	6	2		2	4
Full-time assistants:					
1.00 Fall and Spring	3				
1.00 Summer A		2		or	2
1.00 Summer B		2		or	2
1.00 Summer C		1	&	1 or	2
Part-time graduate students not on assistantship	3	1	&	1 or	2
Graduate students not on assistantship during final term	3	1	&	1 or	2

Note: Registration requirements listed here do not apply to eligibility for financial aid programs administered by the Office for Student Financial Affairs. Check with Student Financial Affairs in S-107 Criser Hall for financial aid requirements (<https://www.sfa.ufl.edu>).

Students who do not register properly (according to Table 1) for each semester that they hold graduate assistantships will not be permitted to remain on assistantships. For students on assistantships for the full summer, minimum registration must total that specified for C term. Registration may be in any combination of A, B, or C terms. However, courses must be distributed so that the student is registered during each term that he/she is on appointment. Students on assistantships registering for any summer term must register before the beginning of A/C term.

Drop/Add

During the drop/add period the student may drop and add courses with no penalty but must have prior approval of their faculty advisor. After the regular drop/add period, the student will be held fee liable for any dropped course. To be clear, you will be charged tuition and fees for the course(s) that you drop after the drop/add period. Reducing the number of credits within a section is considered by the Registrar's office to be the same thing as dropping a course (as the old section must be "dropped" and the new section "added"). It is the student's responsibility to make sure that their registration is correct before the end of the drop/add period. If a student on assistantship drops to less than the minimum number of required credits per semester, he/she will lose the assistantship, and, in addition, must reimburse the University for fees waived and may be liable for the stipend paid that semester.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Grading

In our department, grades of S and U are the only grades awarded for teaching and research courses.

Program of Study

The Program of Study (POS) lists the courses to be taken and the semesters in which the student plans to take them. Initially meet with your faculty advisor to discuss your POS. Once your Supervisory Committee is formed, coordinate a time when you and all committee members can meet together to complete a mutually agreeable schedule of courses to fit your particular needs. Once agreed upon, the document must be signed via Docusign by the student, major advisor, and committee members.

The student may take courses not listed on the Program of Study with their supervisor's permission. If, for any reason, the student fails to take a course listed on the Program of Study, his/her advisor must petition the Graduate Coordinator to have the course(s) deleted from the Program. Otherwise, the student will be unable to graduate for failure to complete the Program of Study.

Letter of Appointment

Each Gainesville student on an assistantship or fellowship, must have a Letter of Appointment each semester. This form, along with the Evaluation Form (Appendix G), is sent to the student's advisor before the end of each semester and must be signed by the student and the advisor and returned to the business office.

Evaluation

Each student in this department, regardless of their physical location, is required to have an evaluation of progress at the end of each semester (Appendix G). The evaluation must be made by the student's advisor (but could include input from the entire Supervisory Committee) and should name specific achievements, milestones reached, and any impediments to progress or concerns about performance for the past semester, along with and goals for the coming semester. The evaluation form must be signed by the student and the advisor and returned to the academic assistant.

AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Grades/GPA

- A cumulative 3.0 GPA is required within the Major, Minor, and the overall program throughout the duration of the graduate program. Failure to maintain an overall 3.0 may be cause for dismissal. A student cannot qualify for graduation with a GPA <3.0 in any area indicated.
- Grades “C” or higher are “passing” grades; courses with earned grades below “C” (and “U” grades in S/U graded courses) are failing grades for graduate students.
- Graduate Assistantship continuance is contingent on performing employment duties, as well as maintaining a 3.0 GPA. The policy is petitionable for one semester only for those on assistantship. Refer to the UF-GAU Bargaining Agreement for comprehensive policy on Graduate Assistants.
- Incomplete (I) grades become a failing grade if not changed to an earned grade in the subsequent term. Continuance is at the discretion of the supervisory committee and Graduate Coordinator.

Conditionally-admitted Students – First Term Requirements

Those admitted conditionally, due to a bachelor’s GPA or an admission test score below the minimum, must take courses in the first semester that are approved by the Faculty Advisor and Graduate Coordinator. These courses must be completed with an overall GPA as specified in the conditions for admission, and include no “W” (withdrawn), “U” (unsatisfactory), or “I” (incomplete) grades to qualify for second semester continuation.

Teaching Assistant (TA)

Required online trainings for all TAs include “FERPA” and “Maintaining a Safe and Respectful Campus: Sexual Violence, Harassment and Discrimination Awareness and Prevention.” Both are accessible via MY.UFL > Self Service > My Training portal. The week prior to Fall semester there are two optional trainings: the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences offers an annual workshop for Instructors and TAs; the Graduate School conducts a TA orientation applicable for those with lecturing duties or on a Graduate Teaching Appointment. Foreign National assigned duties as Teaching Assistants (TA) may be required to take the SPEAK Test to comply with Florida State laws.

Enrollment in AGR 6940 Supervised Teaching is applicable in the term the TA duties are performed, or a future term, and is usually 1-2 credit hours. AGR 6940 maximum registration in the degree program is a total of 5 credits. Appropriate faculty supervision is essential. Contact the Academic Program Specialist for enrollment.

Student Orientation, Mandatory Participation

Incoming students enjoying a campus experience (main campus or a REC location) receive a link to this handbook with their invitation to the department’s required orientation. In addition, UF offers an online overview for all incoming students. The UF Graduate School provides orientation, and you are encouraged to participate.

Enrollment & Student VISA Compliance

Students are responsible to become familiar with enrollment and employment compliance related to their student VISA restrictions. In general, if the registration pattern varies from the guide below, the student should contact the UF International Center and the Agronomy Department. See Table 1. for reference.

Research Hour Enrollment

Enrollment in either AGR 6971, Research for Master's Thesis, or AGR 7980. Enrollment in AGR 7980 Research for Doctoral Dissertation is not permissible prior to the semester in which the qualifying examination is scheduled and subsequent application for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree is filed. Doctoral students should enroll in AGR 7979 Advanced Research prior to and in the semester of the candidacy exams.

Graduate Seminar and AGR 6933 Enrollment

All Agronomy graduate students are required to present an exit seminar to their Supervisory Committee describing the thesis, dissertation, or non-thesis project. The presentation should be an oral report of the written analysis paper submitted by the student as part of the degree program (non-thesis students) or a report on the project, thesis, or dissertation research (M.S. thesis or Ph.D. dissertation programs, respectively). Exit seminars are announced to Agronomy faculty, graduate students, and post-docs with the invitation for them to attend. Students should provide examination details at least two weeks prior to oral exam to Agronomy's Academic Program Specialist. Students are required to enroll for AGR 6933 Agronomy Graduate Seminar in the semester an Exit Seminar is given. A grade for the seminar will be assigned by the student's Supervisory Committee Chair.

Final Term Enrollment

Use the guide below for minimum course enrollment in the final term.

All students: AGR6933 Agronomy Graduate Seminar, 1 credit

AND

Ph.D. Dissertation: AGR 7980 Doctoral Research, 3 credits if fall or spring (2 if in summer)

M.S. Thesis: AGR 6971 Master's Research, 3 credits if fall or spring (2 if in summer)

M.S. Non-thesis: AGR 6905 Agroecology Project, 2 credits if in Agroecology concentration, or AGR 6905 Project, 2 credits if not in the Agroecology concentration.

Hence, if one is on a graduate assistantship with required enrollment of 9 credit hours, a final semester of enrollment might be: AGR 7980 Doctoral Research, 8 credits + AGR 6933 Agronomy Graduate Seminar, 1 credit.

If in doubt of appropriate enrollment, refer to the letter of appointment or program of study. Enrollment questions may also be directed to the Agronomy Academic Program Specialist or Graduate Coordinator.

Graduate Courses

Plant Physiology, Biochemistry

AGR 5444 – Ecophysiology
BCH 6045 – Graduate Survey of Biochemistry
BOT 5505C – Intermediate Plant Physiology
FNR 6134 – Physiology of Forest Trees
HOS 6345 – Environmental Physiology
PLS 6655 – Plant Herbicide Interactions
HOS 6307 – Horticulture Physiology
HOS 6932 – Advanced Horticultural Physiology
PCB 6528 – Plant Cell and Developmental Biology
HOS 6991 – Fundamentals of Seed Biology
PLS 5241C – Advanced Plant Micropropagation

Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics

AGR 5307 – Molecular Genetics for Crop Improvement
AGR 5321C – Genetic Improvement of Plants
AGR 6322 – Advanced Plant Breeding
AGR 6305 – Plant Chromosomes and Genomes
HOS 6236 – Molecular Marker Assisted Plant Breeding
HOS 5242 – Genetics and Breeding of Vegetables
HOS 6201 – Breeding Perennial Cultivars
FOR 6310 – Forest Genetics and Tree Improvement
PCB 5065 – Advanced Genetics
PCB 5530 – Plant Molecular Biology and Genomics

Statistical Methods Data Analysis

AGR 7306 – Multi-Omic Integration for Applied Prediction Breeding
STA 6093 – Introduction to Applied Statistics for Agricultural and Life Sciences
AGR 5266C – Field Plot Techniques
FNR 6560 – Intro to Bayesian Statistics in Life Sciences
EDF 6400 – Foundations in Education Research
ALS 6500 – Multivariate Statistics for Life Sciences
ALS 6501 – Data Carpentry for Biologists
STA 6166 – Statistical Methods of Research I
STA 6167 – Statistical Methods of Research II
AGR 6932 – Geospatial AI for Sustainability Science

Plant Ecology, Management and Nutrition

AGR 5230 – Florida Grassland Agroecosystems
AGR 5511 – Crop Ecology
AGR 5277C – Tropical Crop Production
AGR 6233 – Tropical Grassland Agroecosystems
AGR 6237C – Research Techniques in Forage Evaluation
AGR 6422C – Environmental Crop Nutrition

AGR 5215 – Integrated Field Crop Science
HOS 6355 – Root and Root Rhizosphere Ecology
ALS 5155 – Global Agroecosystems
IPM 5305 – Principles of Pesticides
PLS 5625 – Upland Invasive Plant Management
PLS 5632C – Integrated Weed Management
PLS 5633 – Aquatic Plant Management
PLS 6626 – Invasive Plant Ecology
SWS 5115 – Environmental Nutrient Management
AGR 4932 – Ecosystem Services: Theory, Methods, and Practice

M.S. Non-thesis Degree Requirements

Master of Science Non-thesis

Purpose: To meet the needs of individuals desiring graduate study in Agronomy as preparation for jobs in such areas as production agriculture, agribusiness, consulting, extension, and education that do not have research components.

Pre-requisites: PLS 3004C Principles of Plant Sciences; SWS 3022 Introduction to Soils in the Environment or equivalent; and other courses as specified by the Supervisory Committee.

General Requirements: A total of at least 30 credits approved by the Supervisory Committee, Department, College, and Graduate School. A minimum of 15 credit hours in 5000 level or higher of Agronomy courses and others specifically approved for this purpose as listed in the Graduate Catalog, exclusive of “S/U” graded courses. Non-thesis students are exempt from core curriculum requirements.

Required Courses: AGR 6933 Graduate Agronomy Seminar, 1 credit hour in final term for an Exit Seminar. AGR 6905 Non-thesis Project, 2 credits, for an analysis paper or project, and other courses as specified by Supervisory Committee. The Agroecology program requires that students complete a group of required courses, and complete electives from an approved list of electives. Students in the Agroecology Concentration should refer to the Plan of Study (POS) form for processes specific to fulfilling the concentration.

Oral Final Exam: An Oral Final Exam will be designed by the Supervisory Committee. All committee members must sign the “Report on Non-thesis Final Examination” form and digital signatures are permitted. The Final Exam must be passed by the Graduate School’s final submission deadline. Provide exam details to the Academic Program Specialist at least 10 working days prior to the date of the examination date for signature sheet preparation.

Supervisory Committee: Chair in Agronomy, second member must be UF faculty. All members must have UF Graduate School faculty status.

Beginning of Program Goals (even if enrolled part-time as a place-bound professional):

Month 1:

- Discuss non-thesis project ideas with Committee Chair.
- Form a Program of Study draft selecting courses to support project and career goals.
- Verify in ONE.UF official academic transcripts are with UF Admissions

Month 3:

- Recruit a Supervisory Committee and submit list to Graduate Coordinator.
- Present in a committee meeting the Non-thesis Proposal and Program of Study; collect signatures

Months 6-12:

- Complete “First Term Evaluation” and provide signed copy for student file.
- Provide signed copy of Program of Study and non-thesis proposal for student file.
- Verify via ONE.UF degree attributes in GIMS.

M.S. Thesis Degree Requirements

Master of Science Thesis

Purpose: To meet the needs of individuals desiring graduate study in Agronomy as preparation for jobs in research oriented and/or technical positions.

General Requirements: A total of at least 30 credits approved by the Supervisory Committee, Department, College, and Graduate School. A maximum of 6 credits in AGR 6971 Research for Masters' Thesis. A minimum of 12 credits in 5000 level or higher of Agronomy courses and others specifically approved for this purpose as listed in the Graduate Catalog, exclusive of AGR 6971. One course from each of the core curriculum areas. Students in M.S. Agroecology concentration are exempt from core curriculum requirements.

Required Courses: AGR 6933 Graduate Agronomy Seminar, 1 credit hour in final term for an Exit Seminar. Other courses as specified by the Supervisory Committee. Agroecology Concentration should refer to the Plan of Study (POS) form for processes specific to fulfilling the concentration.

Final Examination: After course work is substantially completed and the thesis is in final form, the Supervisory Committee will give an Oral Final Exam to the student on the thesis, minor subjects, and matters of a general nature pertaining to the discipline area of the student. The student and Committee Chair must be physically present for the examination. All other committee members must participate but may do so using media. UF requires official exam papers to be signed by committee members, and the Academic Program Specialist will oversee sending the exam documents for electronic signature collection. The Final Exam may not be scheduled earlier than the semester preceding graduation. An announcement of the Final Examination must be submitted to the Academic Program Specialist at least 10 working days prior to the date of the examination.

Supervisory Committee: Chair in Agronomy and two additional members.

Beginning of Program Goals (even if enrolled part-time as a place-bound professional):

Month 1:

- Discuss thesis ideas with Committee Chair; read literature on the subject
- Form a Program of Study draft selecting courses to support thesis research.
- Verify in ONE.UF official academic transcripts are with UF Admissions
- Request initiation of Transfer of Credit paperwork

Month 3:

- Recruit a Supervisory Committee and submit list to Graduate Coordinator.
- Present in a committee meeting the Thesis Proposal and Program of Study; collect signatures

Months 6-12:

- Complete "Annual Performance Evaluation" and provide signed copy for student file.
- Provide signed copy of Program of Study and thesis proposal for student file.
- Verify via ONE.UF degree attributes in GIMS.

Ph.D. Degree Requirements

Doctor of Philosophy

Purpose: To meet the needs of individuals desiring graduate study in Agronomy as preparation for faculty positions in academic institutions or as research scientists in federal agencies or in the private sectors.

General Requirements: A minimum of 90 total credit hours.

Transfer of credit from an M.S. degree, previous pursuit of a Ph.D. degree, and/or non-degree seeking courses may be requested if coursework is applicable to the new Ph.D. program. The request is submitted in one's first semester. Additional restrictions include earned grades "B" and higher and courses taken within 7 years of petition must accompany the transfer of credit form to address relevancy. Similarly with course age, it may be addressed via the petition process. For an M.S. degree earned at UF, up to 39 credit hours might qualify to transfer. For block transfer of credit from another institution, the Program of Study should have a single line-item indicating the block request and number of credits approved for transfer. A committee in the department will determine the number of credits that can be transferred early in the student's program.

Minor requirements vary per department and are usually 12 credit hours. Coursework toward a minor cannot be transferred from a previously earned M.S. degree. The number of credit hours in the Agronomy major should exceed that of any minor(s) (and/or graduate certificate degree attribute in the career stack).

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree will normally obtain teaching and/or extension experience, the specifics of which are determined by the Supervisory Committee. It is recommended that at least one credit, and no more than five credits, of AGR 6940 Supervised Teaching be included in the program of study. Concurrent with TA classroom duties, a formal Course Teacher Evaluation is available with permission of instructor of record. Similarly, students who desire a career in extension are encouraged to consider enrolling in Supervised Extension – Agronomy.

Required Courses: AGR 6933 Graduate Agronomy Seminar, 1 credit in final term to present a one-hour Exit Seminar prior to the final defense. One Course from each of the four core-curriculum areas if not fulfilled within M.S. degree and regardless of Ph.D. concentration. Other courses as specified by the Supervisory Committee and fulfillment of each degree attributes (minors, concentration, certificates).

Residency: UF campus residency requirement of 30 credit hours minimum and as specified by the Supervisory Committee and/or letter of appointment.

Foreign Language: No foreign language is required for Agronomy major. However, the Supervisory Committee (or the TCD Concentration) may require a foreign language if the members believe the language study would enable the student to be better prepared for his/her site research or anticipated career objective.

Supervisory Committee: Minimum of four UF faculty members.

Qualifying Examination: The qualifying examination should be given as soon as the Supervisory Committee believes a student has completed an appropriate portion of course work, generally not earlier than the last semester of their first full year. Scheduling the qualifying exam early in a program allows the committee to recommend remedial course work if the student performs marginally on the qualifying exam. The qualifying examination must be held at least two semesters prior to the receipt of the degree by a full-time student or a calendar year before receipt of the degree if the student is on less than a full-time basis. The semester in which the qualifying examination is passed is counted for this purpose if the examination is held and the Admission to Candidacy form is submitted during the first half of that semester.

The examination should consist of a written portion given by each committee member and an oral examination by all members of the Supervisory Committee in assembly. Such examinations cover all major and minor subjects. The student and Committee Chair must be physically present for the examination. All other committee members must participate but may do so using media. UF requires official exam papers be signed by committee members.

Contact the Academic Program Specialist at least two weeks in advance of the oral exam to generate sending the signature page to the committee members for digital signature collection.

Final Examination: A final comprehensive oral examination given by the Supervisory Committee must be passed by all candidates no later than the deadline for each semester as published by the Graduate School. A list of deadline dates may be obtained at: <https://grad.ufl.edu/academics/tdp/>. The examination will cover the candidate's dissertation as required, his/her field of specialization, and other such areas as considered appropriate by the Supervisory Committee. An announcement of the final exam must be submitted through the Graduate Coordinator's office at least 10 working days prior to the examination date. The exam should normally be scheduled during the semester in which the student receives the degree and in no event can this examination be held earlier than six months before the degree is conferred.

The student and Committee Chair must be physically present for the examination. All other committee members must participate and may do so using media. UF requires official exam papers be signed by committee members. The student and Committee Chair discuss an embargo period on the Publishing Agreement, and the student submits via ONE.UF (unless delegated to the Department). The ETD signature page submission may be reserved until the dissertation document satisfies the committee.

Contact the Academic Program Specialist to announce your exam and generate signature pages for electronic signature collection.

Committee Appointment Process

During a student's first term, the major professor and student confer to select a minor field of study (if applicable) and to select other members to form a Supervisory Committee. They use the following guidance to select the proposed committee and communicate it to the Graduate Coordinator using the [appointment form](#).

Minimum number and roles of committee members for Agronomy majors:

- M.S. Non-thesis
 - Chair – Agronomy Faculty Member (co-chair is not permitted)
 - Second Member – any UF Faculty (to include a Minor representative)
- M.S. Thesis
 - Chair – Agronomy Faculty Member
 - Second Member – Agronomy Faculty Member
 - Third Member – any UF Faculty including one for a Minor or Concentration
- Ph.D.
 - Chair – Agronomy Faculty Member
 - Second Member – Agronomy Faculty Member
 - Third Member – can be from any UF department including Agronomy
 - External Member – UF Graduate Faculty not in the Agronomy Department

Minor – a “Minor Representative” is required if a minor is chosen.

A minor is defined in the Graduate Catalog as a block of course work completed in any academic unit outside the major, if approved for master's or doctoral programs listed in the graduate catalog.

Minor Representative – UF Faculty from the academic unit of the minor. The minor representative approves the coursework towards the minor.

M.S. Degree: 6-18 credits, depending on the minor field. Two minors allowable with the Unit's permission.

Ph.D. Degree: 12-18 credits, depending on the minor field M.S. coursework cannot contribute to a Ph.D. minor.

Minor Coursework: Graduate courses/5000-level or higher from the University of Florida GPA 3.0 (truncated). The academic unit offering the minor may place higher standards than those listed here, or in the Graduate Catalog, for fulfillment of a minor. Non-research credits in the Agronomy major must be equal to or exceed total credits from another Unit.

Member Roles/Eligibility

Additional definitions and duties of the Supervisory Committee are within the UF Graduate Catalog.

Committee Chairperson: The major professor serves as a committee chairperson and must be a member of the UF Graduate Faculty. The major professor has the primary responsibility of ensuring compliance with pertinent university regulations during all phases of the student's graduate program.

Committee Co-Chair: Under justifying circumstances, a co-chair for any Supervisory Committee may be appointed to assume the responsibility for detailed supervision of a particular portion of the student's program. Co-chairs with Agronomy Faculty status are permitted to substitute for the Chair at exams.

Students at a UF location different from the Chair's location are advised to consider a Co-chair at their location of residency.

Minor Representative: For each minor selected, one UF Graduate Faculty member representing the student's minor must be appointed. Faculty holding joint, affiliate, courtesy, or adjunct appointments in the Agronomy Department cannot serve as a Minor Representative.

External Member: Ph.D. committees must have a UF Graduate Faculty Member from a different educational discipline, with no ties to the home academic unit. This member represents the interests of the Graduate School and UF, knows Graduate Council policies, and serves as an advocate for the student at doctoral committee activities. Faculty holding joint, affiliate, courtesy, or adjunct appointments in the Agronomy Department cannot serve as an External Member.

Non-UF Faculty Member: Individuals without UF Graduate Faculty status may serve on a student's committee as a "Special Member" through the special appointment process if his/her specific expertise contributes to the graduate student's program of study. The process: Committee Chair submits the proposed Special Member's full name and date of birth (required to obtain a UFID), resume, and justification for inclusion on the committee to an Academic Program Specialist to initiate the approval process. The Academic Program Specialist inserts the data in GIMS and the Graduate School makes a final decision of inclusion.

Concentrations and Certificates: A committee member to represent concentration and/or graduate certificate oversight is not required. Students are responsible to satisfy the coursework necessary to fulfill any degree attribute. Non-research credits in the Agronomy major must be equal to or exceed total credit hours from another unit.

Graduate Certificates

UF/IFAS Agronomy Department manages three [Graduate Certificates](#). Admission requirements include an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major in a natural resource discipline (or at least two biology and two chemistry courses). The GRE is not required for admission.

Graduate School policy on graduate certificates contains eligibility, maintenance of a GPA of 3.0, and permits the academic unit to set standards for completion.

Applicants are advised to contact the Agronomy department's Academic Program Specialist or Agroecology Specialist prior to applying. The following graduate certificates are available by application to current UF graduate students, or to self-funded students as a stand-alone. All certificates are accredited.

Sustainable Agroecosystems Certificate 12+ Credits

Curriculum provides an understanding of current global issues related to agriculture and production systems and valuable skills for a future profession in the agricultural sciences. A comprehensive final written exam of core courses is required for completion. Self-funded students (often place-bound professionals) have the convenience of 100% online delivery.

Three Core Courses:

- ALS 5155 Global Agroecosystems
- AGR 5444 Ecophysiology of Crop Production
- SWS 5050 Soils for Environmental Professionals

One Elective from one of the following:

- AGR 5111 Crop Ecology
- AGR 6422C Environmental Crop Production
- SWS 5208 Sustainability Ag & Urban Land Management
- SWS 5246 Water Sustainability

Tropical Agriculture Certificate 12+ Credits

Curriculum addresses unique challenges faced with integrating production, environment, and society in tropical agroecosystems. Applicants should have an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a major in a natural resource discipline, such as Agronomy, Plant Science, Soil and Water Sciences, Horticulture Science, Environmental Engineering, or Agricultural Engineering. Those with a different major should possess at least two courses in related sciences including biology, chemistry, environmental science, and/or soil and water sciences. Self-funded students (often place-bound professionals) should scrutinize elective courses and check those with WEB delivery. A comprehensive final written exam of courses taken is required for completion. Check with Department for updates on when courses are offered, course delivery, and prerequisites.

One Core Course: ALS 5155 Global Agroecosystems (3 credits, fall, main campus or online)

Electives – choose 3 classes for 9-11 additional credit hours from the following:

- ABE 6645C Computer Simulation of Crop Growth and Management Response (3 credits, summer)
- AEB 6675 International Agribusiness Marketing (3 credits, spring)
- AEB 7645 Economic Development and Agriculture (3 credits, fall)
- AGR 5277C Tropical Crop Production (3 credits, fall, main campus)
- AGR 6233 Tropical Grasslands Agroecosystems (3 credits, fall odd, main campus or concurrent video conference in real time.)
- AGR 6422C Environmental Crop Nutrition (3 credits, fall, main campus or WEB delivery)
- BOT 5685C Tropical Botany (5 credits, summer)
- ENY 5566 Tropical Entomology (3 credits, summer A odd)
- FOR 6170 Tropical Forestry (3 credits, spring)
- FOR 6628 Community Forest Management (3 credits, fall, main campus)
- HOS 5555 Tropical Fruit Production and Research in Florida (3 credits, summer B onsite at Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, FL)
- ORH 5282 Orchid Biology and Culture (3 credits, spring odd, WEB delivery)
- SWS 5132 Tropical Soil Management (3 credits, spring odd, main campus)

Weed Science Certificate 9+ Credits

Certificate designed to assist agricultural and natural resource managers in making effective and environmentally responsible management decisions for nuisance plants. The curriculum will train both managers and practitioners on the interrelations of weed ecology and weedy plant interactions, management techniques, and environmental concerns. Dr. Greg MacDonald (pineacre@ufl.edu) oversees admission and management of this graduate offering:

One Core Course: PLS 5632C Integrated Weed Management (3 credits, fall, main campus or online)

Electives – choose 2 classes for 6 additional credit hours from the following:

- HOS 6070 Plant Materials for Conservation and Restoration (3 credits, summer C odd, online)
- IPM 5305 Principles of Pesticides (3 credits, spring, online)
- PLS 5625 Upland Invasive Plant Management (3 credits, new course spring 2021, online)
- PLS 5633 Aquatic Plant Management (3 credits, fall, online)
- PLS 6626 Invasive Plant Ecology (3 credits, spring odd main campus or online)
- PLS 6655 Plant Herbicide Interaction (3 credits, spring online)

Combined, Dual, or Joint Degrees

Combination, joint, and dual degree programs are specialized pathways that provide academically qualified students the opportunity to enhance their educational experience and strengthen their career preparation or readiness for future academic pursuits. Each defined below has a specific Graduate School form to initiate in the approval process. Once approved, a letter of appointment modification is required, as applicable. Applying does not guarantee acceptance. Definitions provided by the UF Academic Assessment Committee are:

Combination Degree: A combination degree program, sometimes referred to as a combined degree program, is where UF awards more than one degree from an overlapping course of study. Three examples:

- Ph.D. in Agronomy major and M.S. non-thesis in Statistics
- Doctor of Plant Medicine and M.S. Thesis in Agronomy
- 4+1 Bachelor and M.S., in which UF Bachelor's pursuit includes up to 12 graduate credits that contribute to UF's bachelor's degree and qualifies to count towards future M.S. at UF.

Graduate Assistants interested in combined degree pursuit must first have approval of supervisor and an amended letter of offer and/or appointment indicating allowance for combined degrees.

Dual Degree: A dual degree program (also called a dual academic award) is one whereby students study at the University of Florida and at another institution, and each institution awards a separate program completion credential bearing its own name, seal, and signature.

Joint Degree: A joint degree program (or joint academic award) is one whereby students study at the University of Florida and one or more participant institutions and are awarded a single program completion credential bearing the names, seals, and signatures of each of the participant institutions.

Research Performed Elsewhere (Thesis or Dissertation)

Most research for thesis and dissertation as part of the requirements for the M.S. Thesis and Ph.D. is done within the Agronomy Department, including appropriate Research and Education Centers of IFAS. However, both foreign and domestic graduate students at times present justifiable requests to perform the required research elsewhere. Some agencies that support foreign graduate students endorse the concept that research performed in the student's home country will be of maximum educational value to the student.

A request to conduct research at an international location should be made to the Graduate Coordinator and each request will be considered based on merit. In addition to consideration of all details pertaining to the individual request, the following general guidelines will influence the departmental decision on each request:

1. Demonstrated ability of the student to work alone.
2. Availability of adequate research facilities and qualified supervisory assistance at requested research location.
3. Opportunity for major professor to visit the student and the research location sufficiently to insure maintenance of quality.
4. Ability of subject to spend not less than 1 semester in residence at the University of Florida, after doing research elsewhere, to complete requirements and defend the thesis or dissertation. This will require permission from the student's country plus continued support from the granting agency (or personal funds). Research requests from international agencies without this provision will be denied.
5. Fulfillment of requirements of a concentration.

Editorial Standards, Final Term

Every candidate for the M.S. Thesis is required to prepare and present a thesis reporting his/her individual research in a form acceptable to the Supervisory Committee, the Department of Agronomy, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the Graduate School.

Likewise, each Ph.D. candidate is required to prepare a dissertation showing independent investigation in form and content acceptable to his/her Supervisory Committee, the Department, College, and Graduate School. Each thesis and dissertation should be prepared in accordance with standard procedures outlined by the Graduate School and available either in the Graduate Catalog or at <https://grad.ufl.edu/academics/tdp/>.

Students are required to submit an electronic thesis or dissertation and must complete all requirements imposed by the Department, College, and Graduate School.

Final Term

- Request a “Graduation Check” of the Academic Program Specialist 2-4 months prior to the final term and before enrolling in the final term.
- Check the Graduate School student calendar for deadlines and editorial submission standards.
- Enroll correctly and apply to graduate (degree or graduate certificate)
- Verify GIMS profile for accuracy
- Format the thesis or dissertation using UF Editorial standards; use the UF Help Desk for assistance
- Ph.D. Commencement Escorts – provide to Department in advance of the term’s mid-point
- Ph.D. Transmittal Letters are provided to Ph.D. chairs (and co-chairs) for signature collection and submission in GIMS. It enables the Ph.D. student to upload a first submission prior to the deadline.
- Ph.D. and Thesis UMI Publishing Agreement – student selects an embargo period via ONE.UF
- Schedule an Exit Seminar and Final Exam. Usually the same day. Your entire committee must participate in your final exam. Communicate with your Committee Chair and Committee about possible day/time/place and schedule the room. Ask Chair to set-up Zoom conference link.
 - Exam Announcements are made to Agronomy faculty and graduate students. At least two weeks before thesis or dissertation, exam location/time/day, Zoom link, and (optional) a photograph.
 - Examination signature pages will be prepared and emailed to the Committee Chair and Student.
 - ETD Signature Page is sent separately to the Supervisory Committee
 - Follow all UF Editorial deadlines. When Final Clearance is earned, send a PDF of the approved document to the Academic Program Specialist.
- Submit PDF of UF Editorial-approved Dissertation or Thesis or Committee-approved non-thesis project to the Department for its archive.

Faculty and Staff

Abbreviations:

- CAIP = Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
- PIO = Pesticide Information Office
- REC = Research and Education Center
- MCCB = McCarty Hall B
- MCCD = McCarty Hall D

Faculty

- Fredy Altpeter – Professor | Molecular Genetics & Biotechnology
 - altpeter@ufl.edu | (352) 273-3418 | 3085 MCCB
- Ali Babar – Professor | Plant Breeding & Molecular Genetics
 - mababar@ufl.edu | (352) 273-2213 | Bldg. 350
- Ednaldo Borgato – Assistant Professor | Weed Science
 - ednaldo.borgato@ufl.edu | (850) 736-0234 | West Florida REC
- Zachary Brym – Associate Professor | Agroecology
 - brymz@ufl.edu | (305) 246-7000 | Tropical REC
- Brett Bultemeier – Extension Associate Professor | Weed Science & Invasive Plants
 - bwbult@ufl.edu | (352) 392-4721 | PIO
- Michael G. Burton – Professor & Interim Extension State Program Leader for Agriculture | Weed Ecology
 - burton.m@ufl.edu | (239) 922-7959 | UF/IFAS Extension
- Jose Dubeux – Professor | Forages
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- Stephen Enloe – Professor | Weed Science & Invasive Plants
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- Jason Ferrell – Professor and Department Chair | Weed Science & Invasive Plants
 - jferrell@ufl.edu | (352) 273-3408 | 3105 MCCB
- S. Luke Flory – Professor, Director, & Associate Chair | Invasion Ecology
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- Bodie Fletcher – Instructional Assistant Professor | Plant Science and Crop Physiology
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- Niguss Solomon Hailegnaw – Assistant Professor | Crops Nutrient Management
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- Lyn Gettys – Associate Professor | Weed Science & Invasive Plants
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- Robert Gilbert – Dean for Research and Executive | Director of Academic Affairs
 - ragilber@ufl.edu | (352) 392-1784 | MCCD Suite G040
- William Hammond – Assistant Professor & Director of Plant Array | Global Change Ecology
 - williamhammond@ufl.edu | (352) 294-3792 | MCCB

- Diego Jarquin – Assistant Professor | Integration & Application of AI & Omics in Plant Breeding
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Forms

Agronomy Course Registration:

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kPXSKxdX1zR5ae

Graduate Student Committee Appointment Form:

<https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Graduate-Student-Committee-Form.pdf>

Annual Evaluation Form – M.S. Non-thesis:

<https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Annual-Evaluation-Form---Non-Thesis---updated.pdf>

Annual Evaluation Form – M.S. Thesis and Ph.D.:

<https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Annual-Evaluation-Form-M.S.-Thesis--Ph.D..pdf>

Individual Development Plan (IDP) – Ph.D. students only:

[https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Individual-Development-Plan-\(Ph.D.-only\).pdf](https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Individual-Development-Plan-(Ph.D.-only).pdf)

Exit Interview Form:

https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/Exit_Interview-Form.pdf

Program of Study – M.S. Non-thesis:

https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/MS_-POS-Master-Non-Thesis.pdf

Program of Study – M.S. Thesis:

https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/MS_-POS-Master-Thesis.pdf

Program of Study – Ph.D.:

https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/POS-Ph.D_.pdf

Program of Study – M.S. Non-thesis Agroecology Concentration:

https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/POS_MS_nonthesis-Agroecology.pdf

Master's Degree Acknowledgement (MDA) Request Form:

<https://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/media/agronomyifasufledu/documents/3-Agronomy-MDA-Form-8-4-2025-REVISED.pdf>