

So you're in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems (SA&FS), which means you're interested in our food system and how food can be grown in a better way than we are doing now.

If you're interested in Track I: Agriculture and Ecology, you're interested in the medium of our food system, that is, the air, the water, the soil. This is looking at our food system on the microscopic/landscape level, like the bacteria in the soil or the contaminants in the water. Students in this track are strong in chemistry and math. Students who take this track are interested in starting their own farms or becoming soil scientists.

If you're interested in Track II: Food and Society, you're interested in the people of our food system, who is controlling the food system, who is kicked out of the food system, why we have such high rates of obesity and the same time we have such high rates of starvation. This is looking at our food system and the human level. Students in this track are strong writers and vocal opponents of injustice. Students who take this track are interested in working with food NGOs, farming, and reforming systemic issues.

If you're interested in Track III: Economics and Policy, you're interested in the laws that govern our food system. This is looking at our food system at the bureaucracy level. Students in this track are strong in chemistry, math, and economics. Students who take this track are interested in public policy, working with senators at the county level or with businesses that are seeking guidance to become more sustainable.

No matter which track you're in, 25 out of the 37 classes you take will be exactly the same. Each track requires the same core courses, the same applied production courses, many similar preparatory classes, the same communication requirement, the same space to elect to take other courses other than the ones we require (we call these Restricted Electives), and the same space to do internships.

Core courses

If you learn nothing else, we want you to walk away with knowledge of these six classes:

PLS 15 is called Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture

CRD 20 is called Food Systems and is an introduction to our food system (taught by the Master Advisor and the Track II advisor)

ARE 121 is called the Economics of Agricultural Sustainability*

ANS 112 is called Sustainable Animal Management*

PLS 150 is called Agroecosystem Management

PLS 190 is called Seminar in Alternative Agriculture

ESP 191A+B is called Capstone, or is the senior thesis/group internship class of the major.**

*The difference between ANS 112 and PLS 150 are as follows:

ANS 112: dealing with animal management, 3 unit course, no lab

PLS 150: dealing with plants, 4 unit course, includes a lab

**ESP 191A+B are two classes taken in fall and winter quarters consecutively of your final year at UC Davis. In fall, you choose a real world client and design a project for them and winter quarter you implement that project.

Applied Production

The first set of classes are hands-on learning with plants, the second set of classes are hands-on learning with animals, the third set of classes are hands-on learning with technology. The

lower division classes are all P/NP 3 hour labs, so combine these with your tougher upper division classes!

Preparatory courses

No matter which track you're in, you are required to take a statistics, chemistry, biology, plant science, economics, philosophy, a humanities class in anthropology or sociology, food science and technology, and community regional development.

Track I and Track III require calculus (MAT 16A+B)

Track I also requires PHY 1A, CHE 2b

Track III requires ECN 1b

Communication Requirement

CMN 1 or Introduction to Public Speaking is the only class we will accept for this requirement. Think of it as good practice for being able to discuss these issues!

Restricted Electives

This is a set of upper division classes that we've restricted for you within the major to elect to take classes that interest you in subjects that you feel are not adequately addressed already. For this requirement, you must take 20 units, whether that be five classes of 4 units each, or 6 or 7 classes with a mixture of 2, 3, and 4 units classes. How you get there doesn't matter as long as you complete 20 units of upper division classes! Please watch out for the prerequisites, because other departments may require a significant amount of prerequisites for their upper division classes that we do not require for the major. But don't worry! There are many, many classes that don't require prerequisites. For more information, please visit the "Restricted Electives" tab on our major website.

Internship Requirement

SA&FS requires that you complete 8 units of internships by the time you graduate. Each unit is 30 hours, which means that by the time of completion, you will have 240 hours of internship hours. Yes, that's a lot! But that also means that when you're looking for jobs and your potential employer asks what kind of experience you have, you can point to your internships and say, 240 hours of experience!

Our internship requirement works a little differently than other majors, so please review our information carefully on the "Internship Program" tab on our website.

Regardless of what the internship opportunity calls the position--volunteer, intern, or paid job--as long as you turn in the approval packet by the deadline and the position regards sustainable agriculture or our food system, it will count as an internship for us.