Degree Information

The Horticulture program offers three degree options: Master of Agriculture (M.Agr.), Master of Science (M.S.), and Doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees. Areas of specialization within Horticulture are Plant Physiology including Stress Physiology, Genomics, Genetics and Molecular Science, Food Science and Technology, Horticultural Plant Production, Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences, Beneficial Plant-Microbe Interactions, Plant Breeding, Landscape Horticulture, and Horticultural Marketing and International Studies. The students in all programs have a graduate advisory committee which mentors them throughout their graduate program, from selecting coursework to developing their internship or research project.

Master of Agriculture. The M.Agr. is a non-thesis professional degree requiring internship experience. It provides management training and emphasizes problem-solving skills. A professional paper, internship and 36 hours of coursework are required. This non-thesis option is a terminal degree and should not be taken by students wishing to pursue additional graduate studies in science.

Master of Science. The M.S., offered in all areas of horticultural sciences, emphasizes training in research. The master's program requires 32 credit hours of approved courses, original research and a thesis.

Doctor of Philosophy. For a Ph.D. degree, the student already holding a M.S. must complete 64 hours of directed coursework and the development, completion, and defense of a research project followed by the publication of that research. In certain cases, a student may be omitted directly

AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Graduate Studies in

Horticulture

Plant Breeding

M.S.
M.Agr.
Ph.D.

Department of Horticultural Sciences

to the Ph.D. program upon completion of the B.S. degree. These students must complete 96 hours of directed coursework in addition to the development, completion, and defense of a research project followed by the publication of that research.

Admission

Admission is based on undergraduate record (coursework, experience, and grades) for Masters or graduate record for Ph.D. degree applicants, letters of recommendation from faculty mentors, the student's statement of purpose, official GRE scores and acceptable TOEFL scores for international applicants. Coursework in general biological sciences and related fields are preferred.

Applications are evaluated throughout the year. However, to be considered for University fellowships and/or scholarships and Departmental teaching assistantships, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by September 15 for the spring and summer semesters and January 15 for the fall semester. For admission to the Graduate Program, the student must be qualified as indicated above and find a professor who agrees to mentor them. Applicants are strongly encouraged to view our web site to investigate research areas and potential faculty mentors.

Graduate students in the Horticulture program work with faculty mentors to develop not only research programs, but also careers. Social events and a graduate student club provide opportunities to interact with other graduate students and faculty members outside the university environment.

Placement and Jobs

Graduates have been employed as faculty at academic institutions, research scientists and managers, research administrators, Extension agents or agricultural consultants, while others have created their own businesses.

Distinguished Faculty

The Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University is one of the strongest horticulture programs in the nation. The Department is home of three academic chairs: the Benz Chair in Floral Design, The Ellison Chair in International Floriculture and The Basye Chair in Rose Genetics as well as the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center.

Faculty research expertise is quite diverse and includes: ornamental, vegetable and fruit production, sustainable production, whole plant and molecular stress (salt, drought, heat, nutrient) physiology, beneficial microbe-plant interactions, plant breeding, genetics, and genomics, floriculture, landscape horticulture, plant-people interactions, foods for health, phytochemical bioactivity and bioprocessing, food safety, horticultural marketing and international horticulture.

Extensive Facilities

Students have access to multiple state-of-the-art labs, high-end computer systems, greenhouses, growth chambers, and various research gardens and farms throughout the state. The university library system houses more than 4 million print volumes, 4.9 million microform units, over 700 databases, more than 12,500 electronic journals and newspapers and 300,000 electronic books. High-speed wireless is available throughout the campus.

Financial Support

Teaching Assistantships are awarded competitively by the Department. Research Assistantships are awarded by faculty members and funded by their research grants. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis and available from Texas A&M University, the federal government, or private sources. The Texas A&M Financial Services Department has a support team to help students.

Contact Information

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