PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
2139 Plant Sciences Building
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http://psla.umd.edu

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture seeks to make a difference in Maryland and the world by increasing the sustainability and profitability of food and crop production, increasing access to safe, affordable and nutritious food for everyone, translating advances in plant biology and biotechnology to solve 'real world' problems in agriculture, to educate the next generation of agricultural and extension teachers, to increase Maryland farm number, to protect the Chesapeake Bay, and to create and restore landscapes to benefit human and ecosystem health. We strive to allow every student to make a difference in the world by ensuring they gain expertise in an area they are passionate about related to food, grain and fiber production, plant biology, ecology, education and landscape architecture. We aspire to ensure every student can have a rewarding, profitable career.

Our students learn how to 1) grow food (fruit and vegetables), grain, fiber and ornamental crops (flowers, trees and shrubs) profitably and sustainably, 2) lead, educate, and participate in the careful stewardship, planning, and artful co-creation of our cultural and natural landscapes, 3) use new cutting-edge technologies in plant molecular biology and genomics and plant breeding to solve crop production challenges in a changing world, 4) educate the agricultural and extension educators of the future, and 5) to reduce chemical use and increase farm profitability and number. We offer course options in horticulture (fruit, vegetable and ornamentals), agronomy (grain and fiber crops), controlled environment agriculture (fruit, vegetable and vegetable crops in hydroponic systems as well as aquaponics), urban agriculture, plant molecular biology and genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology and microbiology, ecology, food safety, landscape architecture and ecological design, and fermentation science including winemaking and beer brewing. Our courses are organized into three programs: Agricultural Science and Technology, Landscape Architecture, and Plant Sciences. We are also very excited about our new major in Fermentation Science (https://nfsc.umd.edu/undergraduate/fermentation-science/) that is jointly offered with the Department of Nutrition and Food Science (https://nfsc.umd.edu/) focusing on how to use the fermentation process to produce a variety of products including beer, wine, yogurt, silage, cheese, and phytopharmaceuticals, among others.

PROGRAMS

Majors

- Agricultural Science and Technology Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/agriculture-natural-resources/plant-sciences-landscape-architecture/agricultural-science-technology-major/)
- Landscape Architecture Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/agriculture-natural-resources/plant-sciences-landscape-architecture/landscape-architecture-major/)
- Plant Sciences Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/agriculture-natural-resources/plant-sciences-landscape-architecture/plant-sciences-major/)

Minors

- Agricultural Science and Technology Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/agriculture-natural-resources/plant-sciences-landscape-architecture/agricultural-science-technology-minor/)
- Landscape Management Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/agriculture-natural-resources/plant-sciences-landscape-architecture/landscape-management-minor/)

ADVISING

The department has mandatory faculty advising for each of its major and minor programs. Students are required to meet with their faculty advisor at least twice a year.

Faculty Advisors

Concentration	Faculty Advisor
AGST: Agricultural and Extension Education	Dr. Melissa Leiden Welsh, drmwelsh@umd.edu
AGST: Agronomy	Dr. Samuel Olumide Daramola, odaramo1@umd.edu
AGST: Environmental Horticulture	Dr. Diana Cochran, cochrand@umd.edu
Landscape Architecture	Dr. Deni Ruggeri, druggeri@umd.edu
PLSC: Plant Biology	Dr. Gary Coleman, gcoleman@umd.edu
PLSC: Turf & Golf Course Management	Dr. Mark Carroll, mcarroll@umd.edu
PLSC: Urban Forestry	Dr. Joseph Sullivan, jsull@umd.edu
Agricultural Science & Technology (Minor)	Dr. Melissa Leiden Welsh, drmwelsh@umd.edu; Dr. Samuel Olumide Daramola, odaramo1@umd.edu (Agronomy); Dr. Diana Cochran, cochrand@umd.edu (Environmental Horticulture)
Landscape Management (Minor)	Dr. Mark Carroll, mcarroll@umd.edu
General Inquiries	Diana Cortez, dcortez@umd.edu

OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduate Research Experiences

Students have abundant opportunities to conduct research with faculty from this department as well as related programs on campus. Research opportunities are also available at government laboratories such as USDA, NIH, etc.

Internships

A great variety of internships are available that range from with scientists at nearby federal and state agencies, to working with farmers, greenhouse growers and fruit and vegetable producers, to working with landscape architecture and urban planning professionals.

Student Societies and Professional Organizations

Students from the majors as well as any interested students on campus may participate in the Horticulture, Agronomy, and Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SASLA) clubs sponsored by the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Many scholarships and awards are available to PSLA students. Contact the Associate Dean's office at 301-405-2078 for additional information. The department also maintains a listing of scholarships. Contact the executive administrative assistant in 2104A Plant Sciences, 301-405-4356 for additional information on these scholarships.

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information, visit: http://financialaid.umd.edu.