

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 solve pressing worldwide issues such as mitigating climate change, maximizing crop yield sustainably to feed our growing population, improving nutritious food access for all, and creating landscapes to benefit human and environment health. Specifically, our students learn how to 1) sustainably grow food (fruit, vegetable, and grain), ornamental crops, feed and fiber crops and crops used to make plant-based fuels, 2) design environmentally sustainable landscapes that benefit human health and our environment, 3) educate the agricultural and extension educators of the future, and 4) conduct cutting edge plant-based research aimed at solving critical issues challenging the world today. We seek to offer every student a diverse curriculum aimed to ensure they gain expertise in an area they are passionate about, that offers many rewarding job opportunities, and that allows them to contribute to making our world a better place in their own way. For instance, we offer course options in horticulture, agronomy, controlled environment agriculture (including hydroponic), urban agriculture, plant molecular biology and genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology and microbiology, ecology, food safety, landscape design and construction, winemaking, beer brewing, and urban agriculture, among many others. These courses are organized in the three programs our department offers: 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: Agronomy	Bill Phillips, billii@umd.edu
AGST: Agricultural and Extension Education	Melissa Welsh, drmwelsh@umd.edu
AGST: Environmental Horticulture Landscape Architecture	Diana Cochran, cochrand@umd.edu
PLSC: Plant Biology	Deni Ruggeri, druggeri@umd.edu
PLSC: Turf & Golf Course Management	Gary Coleman, gcoleman@umd.edu
PLSC: Urban Forestry	Mark Carroll, mcarroll@umd.edu
Agricultural Science & Technology (Minor)	Joseph Sullivan, jsull@umd.edu
Landscape Management (Minor)	Bill Phillips, billii@umd.edu ; Diana Cochran, cochrand@umd.edu
General Inquiries	Mark Carroll, mcarroll@umd.edu
	Diana Cortez, dcortez@umd.edu

See Diana Cortez, Lecturer & Academic Advisor for Undergraduate Studies, in 2139 Plant Sciences Building (301-405-4359), or email dcortez@umd.edu for additional information.

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>.