

THE FIELD

If you like working outdoors, improving the environment, and combining physical and mental challenges, then explore a career in arboriculture. Arborists are responsible for a wide range of tree care operations, including selection, planting, pruning, fertilization, and plant health care. They help preserve trees as a valuable resource and keep them structurally safe for the benefit of the community. American households spend more than \$14.5 billion on tree sales and care, an amount that increases each year. Millions of homeowners and commercial businesses recognize the benefits of hiring professionals to care for trees and shrubs in their landscapes.

THE MAJOR

Established in 1893, our award-winning arboriculture program is the oldest in the country and has prepared thousands of graduates for careers in the tree care industry. Stockbridge School has received the Award of Merit from the National Arborist Association (now the Tree Care Industry Association) for its positive influence on the practice of arboriculture. Our program carries on a proud tradition by offering a two-year professional education leading to an associate of science (AS) degree. It is designed to prepare students for a career in arboriculture and community forestry. Arboriculture students are prepared for professional credentialing exams by both the Massachusetts Arborists Association and the International Society of Arboriculture. After successful completion of the Stockbridge associate of science degree, students can transfer into the Natural Resources Conservation (NRC) major, which offers a bachelor of science (BS) with an Arboriculture and Community Forestry Management concentration. All BS students are required to take all the AS courses in Stockbridge, plus additional courses. Several courses are offered fully online through University Without Walls (UWW). A 15-credit certificate in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry is available.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Stockbridge School graduates have held leadership roles in the industry and its professional organizations. Arborists are employed by cities and towns, commercial tree care services, government agencies, industrial and public parks, college campuses, golf courses, utility companies, arboretums, and public gardens. Career opportunities include climber, crew leader, commercial sales, plant health diagnostician, arborist, and community forester.

All Stockbridge seniors who have gained valuable experience and built professional contacts through internships, career fairs, and industry association events have employment opportunities in their area of study. Student satisfaction, retention, and graduation rates in the program are exceptional and students have 100 percent employment in the field after graduation.

INDUSTRY-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Arboriculture associations such as the Massachusetts Arborists Association, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens & Foresters Association, and the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, along with numerous tree care companies, award over \$25,000 in scholarships each year to eligible arboriculture students, ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Learn more about the industry through professional organizations such as Massachusetts Arborists Association, International Society of Arboriculture, and the Tree Care Industry Association.

RECOMMENDED TWO-YEAR COURSE SEQUENCE:

FIRST SEMESTER

SUSTCOMM 335	Plants in Landscape
STOCKSCH 192F	First Year Seminar
NRC 102	Arboricultural Field Techniques I
NRC 232	Principles of Arboriculture
STOCKSCH 108	Introductory Botany
STOCKSCH 105	Soils

THIRD SEMESTER

MATH	Based on Placement Exam
NRC 305	Commercial Arboriculture
STOCKSCH 109	Insects of Ornamentals
STOCKSCH 113	Horticulture Pathology Lab
STOCKSCH 230	Introductory Turfgrass Management
ELECTIVE	Optional

SECOND SEMESTER

NRC 191A	Seminar in Arboriculture
NRC 196Y	Independent Study (April–August)
NRC 198Y	Internship (April–August)
NRC 102	Arboricultural Field Techniques II
NRC 210	Principles of Arboriculture II
NRC 333	Insects and Related Forms
STOCKSCH 111	Plant Pathology

FOURTH SEMESTER

ENGLWRIT 111/112	Based on Placement Exam
NRC 310	Community Forestry
ELECTIVES	(Advisor Approved)
NRC 225	Forests and People
NRC 185	Sustainable Living: Solutions for the 21st Century
NRC 235	Sensible Pruning for Beginners and Experts
NRC 261	Wildlife Conservation
NRC 290	Trees and Sustainability
NRC 213	Arboriculture Field Techniques III

THE STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

The Stockbridge School is unique in that its students have all the advantages of being members of the larger UMass Amherst community and the College of Natural Sciences while keeping the close student-faculty relationships of a small school. Students can be involved in a broad range of activities including clubs, intramural sports, and residential activities. Stockbridge faculty members teach at both the undergraduate and graduate level, participate in research, and are highly trained professionals. Stockbridge is a small school with big opportunities.

Levi Stockbridge, who was the university's first professor of agriculture and its fifth president, pioneered "Learning by Doing," a concept that combines classroom lectures with practical experiences. We follow his philosophy to this day.

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

The College of Natural Sciences unites the life, environmental, computational, and physical sciences on campus. Students take advantage of a range of inquiry-based classroom and laboratory experiences, hands-on undergraduate research opportunities, multidisciplinary and cross-departmental education and research initiatives, and a variety of science student organizations. In addition, they are encouraged to develop strong written and oral communication skills, as well as leadership and problem-solving abilities.

Office: 208 Paige Lab

Phone: 413-545-2222

Coordinators: Kristina Bezanson, 119 Holdsworth Hall, 413-545-6626, kbezanson@umass.edu

Website: stockbridge.cns.umass.edu/academics/associate-degrees/arboriculture