

## THE FIELD

Turfgrass science and management is developed for students interested in the professional care of golf courses, sports grass, lawn and park turf, as well as other turfgrass areas. There are 20 million acres of turfgrass in the U.S. that require professionals trained in the art and science of sustainable turfgrass management.

*There is no minor available in turfgrass science and management.*

## THE MAJOR

Students will receive a broad education in the plant and soil sciences, management and biology of destructive weeds, insects, and pathogens, as well as training in mathematics, business management, and the physical and social sciences.

Students will apply their knowledge to pursue careers, including positions as golf course superintendents, athletic field managers, industry sales and technical representatives, and as extension professionals. The UMass Amherst turf program is noted for its excellence in instruction, 100 percent job placement after graduation, notable alumni, and as the oldest continuous academic program for turfgrass management in the U.S.

## CURRICULUM

The degree program is a science-based program with primary emphasis on (1) general turfgrass education, (2) pest management education, and (3) soil science education. Students in the major take courses in chemistry, biology, plant physiology, soil science, and business management, as well as specific turf-related courses in weed science, plant pathology, entomology, and irrigation technology. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the state-of-the-art Joseph Troll Turfgrass Research and Education Center and participate with graduate faculty in independent research projects. Students are also encouraged to participate in Registered Student Organizations, such as the award-winning UMass/Stockbridge Turf Club, and to attend regional and national academic student competitions as well as visits to regional turf facilities. An opportunity for hands-on education and training is offered as part of a well-developed internship program for academic credit at a turf-related facility, typically met by working for a golf course, sports, or turfgrass maintenance facility. Students earn credit with pay through summer internships at many world-class golf and sports grass facilities in the U.S. and abroad. Many students receive job offers before graduation through internship programs.

This major will provide students with the skills and knowledge of (1) technologies for sustainable turf management under reduced water, nutrient, and energy input, (2) suitability of various species and cultivars for golf, sports, and lawn turf, (3) an understanding of basic plant and soil science principles, including knowledge of botany and plant physiology, principles of soil science, fertility, and plant nutrient management, (4) principles of weed biology, plant pathology, and entomology in turfgrass systems, (5) integrated pest management and biological control practices, (6) principles of facility management including basic business management and accounting for economically feasible turf management, and (7) management and interaction with employees.

Undergraduate students planning on advanced degrees at the graduate level are encouraged to pursue the science focus, which requires a greater number of basic science courses in chemistry, mathematics, and biology. Most undergraduate students (approximately 90 percent) preparing to be managers of turf facilities choose the business focus, requiring coursework in business management, marketing, accounting, and economics.

## HONORS

Students may pursue honors opportunities within the major. Contact the honors coordinator, Allen Barker (413-545-4733, [barker@umass.edu](mailto:barker@umass.edu)), for information. Students have opportunities to apply for numerous turf-industry-sponsored scholarships, such as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, New England Sports Turf Managers Association, as well as national scholarships offered by the Sports Turf Managers Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Students can apply for the Geoffrey and Carol Cornish Fund scholarship for travel to participate in a golf course internship opportunity in Scotland.

### **STUDY ABROAD**

Majors may choose to study abroad if it supports their academic and career goals. Students should contact the International Programs Office (413-545-2710, [umass.edu/ipo](http://umass.edu/ipo)) and work closely with their academic advisor to choose the appropriate courses in preparation.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Graduates with a BS degree in turfgrass science and management have a wide range of career options, with the majority currently choosing a career as a golf course superintendent. Other graduates manage athletic facilities or are employed as technical representatives by chemical- or turf-supply companies. Some graduates may pursue advanced degrees in turfgrass science. Because of the expanding interest in high quality and sustainably managed turfgrass in the recreational and landscape industries, opportunities for university and private research are in demand. These opportunities create the need for individuals with MS and PhD degrees.

### **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.

### **THE 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.

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