Animal and Food Science

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Degree Offered

- Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

The Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design offers graduate studies leading to the degree of doctor of philosophy in agricultural sciences with a major in Animal and Food Science. The objective of the degree program is to provide doctoral students an opportunity to study and conduct research with faculty in areas of excellence within the college. Students entering this program may select research and classes in areas of emphases including: agricultural biochemistry, animal nutrition, animal physiology, and production management.

Admissions

Applications and required fees are submitted to the Office of Graduate Admissions at grad.wvu.edu/admissions. Applications must be submitted by October 15 for fall semester and March 15 for spring semester. Applicants must hold a master’s or its equivalent to be eligible for admission into the program. The following admission and performance standards are normally required in the doctor of philosophy in agriculture sciences program:

- An applicant must possess a master’s degree and hold a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale) in postgraduate courses.
- The graduate record examination is required for the major in plant and soil sciences but not for the major in animal and food sciences.
- A student whose native language is not English must have obtained a minimum score of 79 on the TOEFL examination.
- An applicant must provide three letters of reference.
- A one or two-page letter of intent from the student describing his/her research and professional aspirations is required.

After a student is admitted into the doctoral program, the student will select a major professor who will provide and direct an appropriate research opportunity. Doctoral students will conduct research in support of projects approved by the West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (WVAFES) or externally funded grants. The student in consultation with the major professor, will select a graduate committee within the first semester of study. The committee will consist of five or more members; the majority must be WVU faculty and at least one member representing a discipline outside the college. Each student and his or her committee will formulate a plan of study, which will be filed in the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College. WVU regulations concerning committee membership will apply.

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree in Animal and Food Science must meet all University, College, Division, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate catalog.

Program Requirements

All Ph.D. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student develops the plan of study during their first year in the program in conjunction with the graduate committee. The plan must be approved by the Director of the Division and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Davis College.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses applied toward degree requirements.

Course Requirements as determined by the Plan of Study

| Research | Candidacy Exam | Dissertation | Dissertation Defense |

Doctoral students must satisfactorily complete a set of core courses before they will be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Certain course requirements may be waived if the student has received equivalent training in prior coursework. Additional coursework pertaining to the student’s area of specialization will be determined by the student’s major professor and graduate committee. Although not required, presentation of research results at meetings of a professional society and submission of manuscripts for publication are encouraged.
Major Learning Outcomes

ANIMAL AND FOOD SCIENCE

The student demonstrates fundamental knowledge of plants, soils, natural sciences, microorganisms, macroorganisms, pathogens and associated fields such as biochemistry, chemistry, and biology.

The student demonstrates detailed knowledge of their particular subdiscipline or research area, including the scientific literature fundamental to their discipline and the ability to stay current on scientific literature.

The student demonstrates technical skills in the laboratory.

The student demonstrates the ability to communicate in writing and orally about scientific concepts and the results of their research.