

FOOD SYSTEMS, CERTIFICATE

The certificate in food systems is an option open to all undergraduate students. It assembles an interdisciplinary curriculum, integrating different paradigms across all aspects of food production, distribution, and consumption, along with the context and values inherent to the systems.

For students in food or agriculture-related majors, the certificate in food systems will provide a broader context to their disciplinary studies. For students in fields that include food as a possible orientation of their studies, it will provide exposure to the full range of food systems, potentially inspiring an orientation to food as a focus of their studies. For students of any discipline, the certificate will help students be more informed consumers and citizens, hopefully leading to better choices about what they eat through knowledge of food and the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of different patterns of production, processing, distribution, and consumption.

HOW TO GET IN

Undergraduate students of any major are welcome to pursue the certificate in food systems.

Students are eligible to declare the certificate once they complete one of the three core courses (AGROECOL/AGRONOMY/C&E SOC/ ENTOM/ENVIR ST 103 Agroecology: An Introduction to the Ecology of Food and Agriculture, C&E SOC/A A E/SOC 340 Issues in Food Systems, and DY SCI/AGRONOMY 471 Food Production Systems and Sustainability) with a grade of B or better. While there are different pathways to complete the certificate, students who declare and plan their coursework earlier in their careers will be in a better position to complete the required coursework.

Students who meet the eligibility criteria should fill out this short questionnaire (https://uwmadison.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JPABAckGujKA2p/) and then contact Megan Banaszak (mbanaszak@wisc.edu) to declare the certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

The certificate in food systems requires that students take two highly interdisciplinary core courses (6 total credits), and at least one course in each of three thematic elective categories (for 9 total credits across electives), plus a one credit culminating activity such as an internship, independent study, or appropriate capstone. The course list below provides a complete list of courses that satisfy each requirement.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 2.0 GPA in certificate courses
- At least 50% of certificate courses taken in-residence (i.e. at UW-Madison or through a UW-Madison sponsored study abroad program)
- Minimum of 16 credits total

Code	Title	Credits
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Core Courses

Select two of the following:

6-7

AGROECOL/ AGRONOMY/ C&E SOC/ ENTOM/ ENVIR ST 103	Agroecology: An Introduction to the Ecology of Food and Agriculture
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C&E SOC/A A E/ SOC 340	Issues in Food Systems
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DY SCI/ AGRONOMY 471	Food Production Systems and Sustainability
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Elective Courses

Select at least one course from each list: Provisioning, Context, and Values for a total of 9 credits 9

Provisioning (production, processing, distribution)

AGRONOMY 100	Principles and Practices in Crop Production
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AGRONOMY 300	Cropping Systems
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AGRONOMY 377	Global Food Production and Health
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AN SCI/ DY SCI 101	Introduction to Animal Sciences
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AN SCI/ DY SCI 370	Livestock Production and Health in Agricultural Development
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BOTANY/ PL PATH 123	Plants, Parasites, and People
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FOOD SCI 301	Introduction to the Science and Technology of Food
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HORT 120	Survey of Horticulture
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HORT/ AGRONOMY 376	Tropical Horticultural Systems
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HORT 370	World Vegetable Crops
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HORT 378	Tropical Horticultural Systems International Field Study
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Context (policy, economics, law, society)

A A E 215	Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics
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AGRONOMY/ HORT 360	Genetically Modified Crops: Science, Regulation & Controversy
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AN SCI/ FOOD SCI 321	Food Laws and Regulations
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AN SCI/DY SCI/ FOOD SCI/ SOIL SCI 472	Animal Agriculture and Global Sustainable Development
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AN SCI/DY SCI/ FOOD SCI/ SOIL SCI 473	International Field Study in Animal Agriculture and Sustainable Development
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C&E SOC/ F&W ECOL/ SOC 248	Environment, Natural Resources, and Society
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ENVIR ST/ F&W ECOL 515	Natural Resources Policy
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GEOG/ ENVIR ST 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems
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GEOG/ ENVIR ST 534	Environmental Governance: Markets, States and Nature
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MED HIST/ AGRONOMY/ C&E SOC/ PHILOS 565	The Ethics of Modern Biotechnology
<i>Values (nutrition, equity, environment)</i>	
A A E 323	Cooperatives and Alternative Forms of Enterprise Ownership
A A E/ AGRONOMY/ NUTR SCI 350	World Hunger and Malnutrition
AGRONOMY/ BOTANY/ SOIL SCI 370	Grassland Ecology
BOTANY/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO 474	Ethnobotany
C&E SOC/ SOC 341	Labor in Global Food Systems
C&E SOC/ SOC 222	Food, Culture, and Society
ENVIR ST/ GEOG 309	People, Land and Food: Comparative Study of Agriculture Systems
FOLKLORE/ AMER IND/ ANTHRO/ GEN&WS 437	American Indian Women
HORT 350	Plants and Human Wellbeing
NUTR SCI 132	Nutrition Today
NUTR SCI 332	Human Nutritional Needs
SOIL SCI/ ENVIR ST/ GEOG 230	Soil: Ecosystem and Resource
Food Systems Culmination Activity¹	
Select one of the following: 1	
<i>Independent Study</i>	
C&E SOC 299	Independent Study
C&E SOC 699	Special Problems
<i>Food Systems Internship</i>	
C&E SOC 399	Coordinative Internship/ Cooperative Education

Total Credits **16-17**

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Culminating activities must be formally pre-approved and incorporated into an independent study (299) or internship (399) within the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology. Click [HERE](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eaks3WTTYEkj7Xn/) (https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eaks3WTTYEkj7Xn/) for more information and a form to request approval of a culminating activity.

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Evaluate critically the key elements of a food system.
2. Evaluate critically how political, social, economic, and environmental forces interact to shape food systems.
3. Evaluate critically the biophysical processes inherent in various agricultural production systems.
4. Evaluate critically how individuals from different backgrounds interact with local and global food systems as humans, consumers, producers, and citizens.
5. Evaluate critically the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of different food systems.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

Questions about the certificate may be directed to the advisor, Megan Banaszak (mbanaszak@wisc.edu), or to the Faculty Chair, Michael Bell (michaelbell@wisc.edu).

CAREERS

For students in food or agriculture related majors, the certificate in food systems will provide a broader context to their disciplinary studies. As they seek careers, they will be able to provide evidence of enhancing their disciplinary learning and skills with a broader framework of food system concepts, including ideas for enhancing food system sustainability. For students in fields that include food as a possible orientation of their studies, it will provide exposure to the full range of food systems, potentially inspiring an orientation to food as a focus of their studies. For students in any discipline, the certificate in food systems will help them be more informed consumers and better informed citizens, hopefully leading to better choices about what they eat through knowledge of food and the social, economic, and environmental consequences of production, processing, distribution, and consumption.

PEOPLE

Faculty across campus teach courses in the certificate. Please use the Guide to seek out information on individual courses.

For general certificate inquiries, questions about the culminating experience, direct advising on curricular requirements, or to declare the certificate, contact Megan Banaszak (mbanaszak@wisc.edu).

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

- Integrated, interdisciplinary course work
- Professional development opportunities, including options to intern off campus
- Hands-on culminating experience