

AGRICULTURE

Building 3, Room 108, Brighton Campus • www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter • 585.292.2248

Career Opportunities

Only 10 percent of the more than 20 million people who work in the agriculture field are farmers. The rest are employed in any of the more than 200 agriculture-related careers. Agriculture is science-based, high-tech, and business oriented. The discipline is “hands on” and offers a breadth of study and career possibilities. Research careers such as biochemistry, microbiology, food science, genetics, biotechnology, botany, and zoology are available, as well as careers in:

- Advertising
- Education
- Food Production
- Animal Care
- Engineering
- Genetics
- Business Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Manufacturing
- Community Development
- Environmental Conservation
- Marketing
- Plant Production
- Public Relations
- Retail Management
- along with many others

Areas of study include:

- Agritourism professionals own and/or operates a agriculture related business that serves and educates the public.
- Agronomy commonly refers to field crop, fruit and vegetable production. It is the branch of agriculture dealing with various physical and biological factors including soil management, tillage, crop rotation, weed control, and climate.
- Animal Care involves the management care and breeding of domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses.
- Business Management is a major component of agriculture. It includes careers related to the transport, processing, delivery and marketing of food to consumers. It also includes the seed, fertilizer and equipment services for people who produce food, fiber, and renewable energy.
- Biotechnology produces new and enhanced forms of field crops and farm animals.
- Economics offers information on economic trends with reference to agriculture and other economic contexts. Much of the work involves advising agricultural business on ways of improving management and profits.
- Education and Research involves teaching subjects such as forestry, horticulture and animal science in academic school and college settings as well as working for government agencies that provide consulting and educational services to agriculture professionals.
- Engineers design equipment to enhance the production of foods for both human and animal consumption in addition to developing equipment to produce pharmaceuticals.
- Entomology is the study of insects. Related to agriculture, this involves a variety of jobs that include insect surveys, pest management, and the study of disease carrying insects and raising bees.
- Food Production is the business and science of producing, processing and distributing safe and healthy food products.

Degrees and General Coursework

Most of the careers in agriculture require a Bachelor’s Degree in the particular field. SUNY colleges, such as Alfred State, Cobleskill and Morrisville, do offer two year degrees in some agricultural disciplines. Although all agriculture related majors require courses in math and science, the number and level of such courses is contingent on the specific major chosen.

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Academic Links at MCC to Agricultural Related Degrees

Students attending MCC who are interested in pursuing a career in an agricultural field are encouraged to review transfer information to area colleges and universities. Some examples are:

- **Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs)** (www.cals.cornell.edu) is world renowned for their academic programs related to the field of agriculture. Some basic coursework at MCC necessary to transfer to CALS for majors in Agricultural Sciences, International Agricultural and Rural Development, Animal Science and Agricultural Science Education include: ENG 101, ENG 200, SPC 142, BIO 155 and BIO 156, MTH 160 and/or MTH 210, CHE 151 and 152, and Social Science courses such as: SOC 101, PSY 101.
- **SUNY Alfred State** (www.alfredstate.edu) - Offers A.A.S. degrees in Agricultural Technology (includes concentrations in Animal/Dairy Science and Plant Science), Agricultural Business, and Veterinary Technology. An articulation agreement exists between MCC and Alfred State College for the Veterinary Technology program.
- **SUNY Cobleskill** (www.cobleskill.edu) - Offers Bachelors degrees in Agricultural Business Management, Animal Science, Agriculture Equipment Technology, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Plant Science, and Wildlife Management. Complete MCC's A.A.S. degree in Biotechnology to optimally transfer to their B.S. degree in Agricultural Biotechnology.
- **SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry** (www.esf.edu) - Offers a variety of academic programs focused on the science, design, engineering and management of natural resources and the environment. Majors range from Aquatics & Fisheries Science to Forest Ecosystems Science to Natural Resource Management. Most majors require students to take BIO 116, 155, 156, CHE 151, 152, MTH 210, 211 and a Physics sequence. Some also require CHE 251 & 252 as well as other specific courses designed to meet program requirements. See [MCC's 2+2 Dual Admissions program with SUNY ESF](#) for more information.
- **SUNY Morrisville** (www.morrisville.edu) - Bachelors of Technology degrees are available in the disciplines of Dairy Management, Equine Science, and Horticulture Business Management. The College also offers a B.B.A. Degree in Agriculture Business Development. Courses taken are contingent on the major chosen by the student. Possible MCC coursework taken for the Agricultural Business Development (BBA) program includes: ACC 101, MTH 165, 160, ENG 101, BUS 201, Literature, ITG 102, and SUNY Gen Ed courses.

Additional Information:

The **Cooperative Extension System** is a nationwide, non-credit educational network. Each U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices. For more information visit www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html

Agriculture and Forestry Jobs in the Federal Government - www.makingthedifference.org/federalcareers/agriculture.shtml

Careers in Agriculture, University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture - www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/career/

National Association of Agriculture Educators - www.naae.org

National FFA Career Explorer - www.ffa.org

The National Agri-Marketing Association - www.nama.org/index.html

USDL, Career Guide to Industries, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing - www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs001.htm

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