

Career Advising Guide

AGRICULTURE

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.

Areas of study include:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Biotechnology** produces new and enhanced forms of field crops and farm animals.
- **Food Production** is the business and science of producing, processing and distributing safe and healthy food products.
- **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.

Exciting careers in research areas such as biochemistry, microbiology, food science, genetics, biotechnology, botany, zoology are available, as well as careers in:

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

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** – The Pathway to Success Program is an agreement between Cornell University and MCC that allows students to complete coursework at MCC and then apply for transfer to Cornell. This includes a vast number of programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) at Cornell. Some basic coursework at MCC necessary to transfer to CAL S for majors in Agricultural Sciences, International Agricultural and Rural Development, Animal Science and Agricultural Science Education include: ENG 101, ENG 200, SPT 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 College of Environmental Science and Forestry** - 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.
- **SUNY Morrisville** – 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 coursework taken for the Agricultural Business Development (BBA) program includes: ACC 101, MTH 165, 160, ENG 101, BUS 201, Literature, CIS 121, SUNY Gen Ed courses.
- **SUNY Cobleskill** – Complete MCC’s A.A.S. degree in Biotechnology to optimally transfer to their B.S. degree in Agricultural Biotechnology.
- **SUNY Alfred State** – Offers A.A.S. degrees in Agricultural Technology, Agricultural Business and Veterinary Technology. MCC students could complete the first year of coursework for the Veterinary Technology and then transfer to Alfred State for the second year of this two year program. MCC courses include ENG 101/200, CHE 151 and 152, MTH 165, BIO 142, BUS 204 (BUS 104 required by MCC as pre-requisite) and courses in Health/Phys Ed, American History or Western Civilization, Social Science elective and Humanities elective. (See SUNY General Education requirements)

Additional Information:

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/career/>

http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_job.careersearch

Please note: while every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.