Agricultural Education, BS

Department: School of Applied Sciences, Technology and Education
College: College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

USU is the only university in the state that offers a degree that leads to certification in agricultural education. The department prepares students to become teachers and FFA (Future Farmers of America) advisors in high schools and technical education centers. Ag teachers can teach a wide variety of subjects, including animal science, horticulture, welding and metals, woodshop, leadership courses, and other elective classes. They receive high-quality training at USU and job placement for ag teachers is extremely high across the state and the nation.

In addition to courses in agricultural education, the curriculum includes courses in technical agriculture areas, including agricultural economics; agricultural mechanization; animal, dairy, and veterinary sciences; plant and soil science; and natural resources.

Students in this program have the unique opportunity to work with mentor teachers starting their junior year. This gives them the opportunity to receive instruction and build a relationship with mentor teachers before they enter the classroom as student teachers. Often, students will obtain a biology teaching endorsement as well after they are licensed as ag teachers in order to make themselves more marketable to schools.

Career Options

With a degree in agricultural education, students can pursue the following careers:

- High school agriculture teacher
- Cooperative Extension professional
- Ag Literacy coordinator
- Agricultural education professor
- Farm Business Management instructor
- 2-year technical college agriculture instructor
- Adult agricultural education instructor
- Young Farmer instructor

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the agricultural education program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors need a 2.75 total GPA for admission to this major.
- **STEP Requirements:** In order to be accepted into STEP, students must go through an application process, which includes the following:
    - Complete of 60 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
    - Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
    - Complete a speech and hearing test
    - Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
    - Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript
    - Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before submitting the application)

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

Taylor Adams
Academic Advisor and Recruitment Specialist
Office: AGRS 420
Phone: 435-797-7091
Email: taylor.adams@usu.edu

Shelly Wiegand
STEP Advisor
Office: EDUC 375
Phone: (435) 797-0383
Email: shelly.wiegand@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

National Association of Agricultural Educators: NAAE seeks to advance agricultural education and promote the professional interests and growth of agriculture teachers as well as recruit and prepare students who have a desire to teach agriculture. The organization is dedicated to developing professional pride, to nourishing a spirit of unity among classroom teachers, and to recognizing members for conducting outstanding programs. It monitors governmental affairs affecting agricultural education and assists in the development of priorities and strategies to effect federal legislation and appropriations.

Collegiate FFA: Collegiate FFA is the service arm to the national FFA organization. USU Collegiate FFA members serve the agricultural industry, the agricultural education profession, and the FFA at the local, state, and national levels. Students from all majors interested in agriculture are encouraged to join.

Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers: The USU Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers chapter is associated with the Utah Farm Bureau Federation and is open to all USU students with an interest in agriculture regardless of major.

Alpha Tau Alpha: Alpha Tau Alpha is a national professional honorary agricultural education organization that plays a vital role in the preparation of those who have chosen a major in agricultural education or Extension education.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.