

# Agricultural Systems Technology, BS

**Emphases:** Agribusiness; Agricultural Mechanization

**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 with a degree program in agricultural systems technology. The program combines an understanding of agricultural, biological, and physical sciences with technical and business managerial skills. Graduates may pursue numerous agricultural careers, such as working for an agricultural equipment corporation, managing a machinery dealership, serving as a sales representative for an equipment company, or serving as a farm or ranch manager. The department ensures students are well prepared to enter their careers by working closely with agricultural agencies each year to make sure courses cover relevant and up-to-date material.

Students focus on the hands-on application of agricultural engineering principles, the function and use of agricultural technology, and the integration of technology management concepts for the food, fiber, and natural resources industries. The focal point of the program is on the management, use, and troubleshooting of agricultural technology. Students' coursework typically involves a broad foundation through real-world instruction in power and machine systems, natural resources conservation, electricity and electronics, precision agriculture technologies, and agricultural structural systems. Students are encouraged to incorporate business and management electives to develop a focus area of their choosing.

## Career Options

With a degree in agricultural systems technology, students may be qualified for careers in the following areas:

### Agribusiness Emphasis

- Production operations for service-oriented businesses and agencies, corporate farms or ranches, etc.
- Director or supervisor of manufacturing and processing operations
- Production farm or ranch managers

### Agricultural Mechanization Emphasis

Graduates work in the following careers at agricultural machinery dealerships, independent farms or ranches, etc.

- Agricultural equipment mechanic
- Sales agent
- Technical support

[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 systems technology 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 need a 2.2 total GPA for admission to this major. Students transferring from other USU majors need a 2.0 total GPA for admission to this major.

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.

#### **Misty Balls**

**Office:** AGRS 420

**Phone:** (435) 797-2282

**Email:** [misty.balls@usu.edu](mailto:misty.balls@usu.edu)

## Get Involved

### Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**International Food and Agribusiness Management Association:** This is an international management organization that brings together current and future business, academic, and government leaders along with other industry stakeholders to improve the strategic focus, transparency, sustainability, and responsiveness of the global food and agribusiness system.

**Agribusiness Club:** The agribusiness club is designed for students interested in agribusiness. It sponsors activities and holds meetings to help students get to know each other and to learn about career options.

**Agricultural Technology Club:** Student membership is generally made of agricultural machinery or agricultural systems technology majors. Students participate in activities designed to develop skills and knowledge specific to agricultural systems technology. The club also participates in numerous service projects for the community.

**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.

### 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.

**ASTE Teaching Laboratory:** The department's teaching lab features a classroom, a woodworking shop, and a large work area where students have hands-on access to tractors and other agricultural equipment where they learn operation and maintenance.