Students approach modern agricultural problems from a holistic perspective, emphasizing agricultural planning integrated with ecological principles. Through experience in sustainable agricultural practices, students learn about a farm/ranch in the context of an agro-ecosystem: a system whose processes and relationships can be manipulated to allow production with fewer adverse environmental impacts and external inputs. Students develop knowledge and skills involving holistic management, crop production, and adaptive decision-making in a hands-on environment. The minor is available to all Cal Poly students.

Required Courses

Advanced version of the following courses may be substituted by production majors.

- AEPS 203 Organic Farming Enterprise Project (2)
- AG 360 Holistic Management (4)
- AEPS/AG 315 Principles of Organic Crop Production (4)
- NR 324 Social Dimensions of Sustainable Food and Fiber Systems
- AG 339 Internship in Agriculture (4)

Area Studies

Select minimum of one course from three of the following Areas. A minimum of 4 units must be at the 300-400 level.

Agriculture and Society Area:

- AG 350 The Global Environment (4)
- AGB 312 Agricultural Policy (4)
- GEOG/ERSC 333 Human Impact on the Earth (4)
- NR 142 Environmental Management (4)
- SOC 309 The World System and Its Problems (4)
- UNIV/POLS 333 World Food Systems (4)

Production Agriculture Area:

- AEPS 321 Weed Biology and Management (4)
- AEPS/BOT 323 Plant Pathology (4)
- AEPS 431 Insect Pest Management (4)
- AEPS 441 Biological Control for Pest Management (4)
- AEPS 445 Cropping Systems (4)
- AEPS 445 Cropping Systems (4)
- AGB 212 Agricultural Economics (4)
- ASCI 221 Introduction to Beef Production (4)
- ASCI 222 Systems of Small Ruminant Management (4)
- ASCI 311 Advanced Beef Cattle System Management (4)
- BRAE 340 Irrigation Water Management (4)
- BUS 212 Financial Accounting for Nonbusiness Majors (4)
- SS 221 Soil Health and Plant Nutrition (4)
- or SS 322 Soil Plant Relationships (4)

Agroecology Area:

- NR 306 Natural Resource Ecology and Habitat Management (4)
- NR 323 Human Dimensions in Natural Resources Management (4)
- SS 321 Soil Morphology (4)
- SS 440 Forest and Range Soils (4)

Environmental Design Area:

- AEPS 381 Native Plants for California Landscapes (4)
- LADES 406 Sustainable Environments (4)
- LA 202 Design Fundamentals I (4)
- LA 221 California Plants and Plant Communities (4)
- UNIV/PSC/HNRS 392 Appropriate Technology for the World’s People: Design (4)

Total Units for the Minor: 29