PLANT SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW
Cal Poly’s Plant Sciences Department offers the plant sciences degree program with concentrations in three specialized areas: environmental horticultural science, fruit and crop science, and plant protection science.

MAJOR
PLANT SCIENCES

CONCENTRATIONS
• ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE
• FRUIT AND CROP SCIENCE
• PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCE

MINORS
• CROP SCIENCE
• FRUIT SCIENCE
• LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURE
• PLANT PROTECTION
• SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
• MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALIZATIONS IN CROP SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE AND PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCE.

CALIFORNIA
produces nearly half of all U.S. grown fruits, nuts and vegetables.
The department’s expert faculty is celebrated for giving students the tools, knowledge and abilities to meet the challenges of tomorrow — from best practices in drought management to the sustainable growing of horticultural and agronomic crops, both indoors and in the field. Through extensive Learn by Doing opportunities in the university’s fields, gardens and labs, students are encouraged to look for solutions to real-world problems.

Students gain unique hands-on experience in the department’s fields, groves, vineyards, nurseries, orchards, an arboretum, gardens and greenhouses. Internships and collaborations with industry partners provide yet another rich layer of experiential learning that sets students apart.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

THE CAL POLY ORGANIC FARM

The farm is an 11-acre production unit, certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers. It provides a place to experience hands-on learning in organic and sustainable farming and gardening practices. The farm provides produce that is sold locally at farmers markets, the Campus Market, and to local vendors and restaurants. Produce not sold is donated to the Food Bank of San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly’s organic farm was ranked 7th in the nation by Best Value Schools Online.

LEANING PINE_ARBORETUM

The Leaning Pine Arboretum, located on the Cal Poly campus, is a five-acre expanse of teaching gardens displaying hundreds of unique plants. The collection presents plants from the world’s five Mediterranean climate regions: Australia, California, Chile, the Mediterranean basin, and South Africa.

ON THE JOB CAREERS

Account managers
Agronomists
Food safety technicians
Golf course superintendents
Production managers
Sales representatives

TOP EMPLOYERS

Driscoll’s
Munger Farms
E. & j. Gallo Winery
California Strawberry Commission

STUDENT CLUBS

Crops Club
Floral Design Team (affiliated with the National American Institute of Floral Designers)
Horticulture Club
Pi Alpha Xi
Professional Landcare Network Team

CONNECT

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