Horticulture
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources

"I chose horticulture because I like working outdoors with my hands, and because it is both an art and a science. The faculty and staff have expertise in many different areas. I've enjoyed the practical experience of working with them in the KSU Gardens, greenhouses and in class. My goal is to create dream landscapes so people can call their house a home."

Austin Hansen
Lansing, Kansas

Horticulture combines art and skill with science and technology for sustainably growing, distributing, and using ornamental plants, fruits, and vegetables. Landscapes, homes, and public buildings are surrounded by horticulture. Lives are enriched through the varied diets and physical activities resulting from this field of study. Graduates, depending on their option, become experts in disciplines such as vegetable production, landscape design or golf course management. According to a national study, job openings in horticulture will exceed the number of graduates needed to fill them in the next decade.

Possible Careers
Greenhouse grower, nursery or garden center manager, production horticulturist, landscape designer, golf course manager, sales and marketing manager, technical representative, buyer, gardener, groundskeeper, superintendent, general manager, extension agent, plant breeder, sports turf manager, horticultural therapist and research scientist

Potential Employers
Wholesale plant production operations, nursery or greenhouse facilities, tree farms, garden centers, golf courses, research facilities, resident and commercial lawn services, horticultural consulting companies, retail florists, botanical gardens, conservatories, baseball parks, zoos, city parks, retirement communities.

Academics
Horticultural production:
Students combine business courses with horticulture classes in their area of interest. Specialties include fruit and vegetable production with courses in conventional or organic, sustainable practices, and greenhouse and nursery management, which focuses on propagation and production of potted crops, bedding plants, shrubs, trees and fresh flowers.

Landscape horticulture: This option prepares students for opportunities in all aspects of residential and commercial landscape care, from installation through maintenance. It is also a good option for creative individuals interested in designing functional and sustainable landscape environments.

Golf course and sports turf operations management: This unique program combines business, communications, hospitality, and turf management courses to prepare the next generation of golf course superintendents and managers and to prepare students for rewarding careers with professional sports organizations, school districts, colleges, and university grounds departments, and municipal parks and recreation departments.

Horticultural science: This option is intended for students who plan to pursue a graduate degree. Universities, state and federal agencies, and industries need trained scientists who can teach, conduct research, and communicate findings to the public to increase the production and effective use of horticultural products.

Classes
Horticulture is a diverse field with various career options. Because students may not know which area they would like to specialize in, the first two years are similar for all areas of horticulture. During this time students develop a broad foundation by taking courses in horticulture, biology, chemistry, soils, mathematics, economics, English, communications and general education.

During the last two years students take courses in entomology, plant pathology, plant physiology, genetics, and business. Horticultural specialization courses are emphasized to prepare them for a chosen career. In addition, students complete at least one internship before graduation.

Facilities
The horticulture program is located in the Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center where high-tech teaching and research facilities are available. Students can work with individual faculty members on independent studies covering a wide range of topics — from tissue culture research
to the development of extension materials, to growing plants in the greenhouses or research fields, to assisting with laboratory research.

The department is developing the 12-acre KSU Gardens located directly north of the Throckmorton greenhouse complex. Learn more about them by visiting www.k-state.edu/gardens. Students use the gardens to study plant material and gain experience through class projects such as installing flower beds or laying irrigation pipe.

Student activities
These organizations provide opportunities for students to become involved in their chosen careers while interacting with peers with similar interests.

• The K-State Horticulture Club offers opportunities for students to work together on club fund-raising activities such as growing chrysanthemums and bedding plants, selling roses for Valentine's Day, and creating Christmas wreaths. Students enjoy each other’s company during club meetings and gatherings.

• Willow Lake Student Farm is a student-operated vegetable and fruit farm that uses primarily organic production practices. Students sell produce at farmers markets and K-state dining services, and they run a community-supported agriculture service.

• Students in golf course and sports turf management can join the student chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Students attend national conferences as a club.

• The PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Landscape Contracting Team allows students to travel to host schools for the largest green industry career fair in the country. They can compete in 28 events, including irrigation assembly; exterior and interior design; interior, annual and perennial ID; skid steer operation; and leadership skills. Many K-State students have been national champions in their events over the past decade.

Advising
One of the department’s greatest strengths is faculty members who are genuinely committed to teaching and serving as great advisors. They make it a point to get to know their students. With an average student to faculty ratio of 15-to-1, individual attention is strongly emphasized. Advisors not only guide academics and assist with career planning, but also excellent resources for assisting students with finding employment, internships, and personal concerns.

Faculty Awards
K-State Horticulture faculty members include a university distinguished teaching scholar, a certified international landscape irrigation auditor and designer, three fellows of North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), a recipient of the American Horticulture Society's Great American Gardeners national award and multiple recipients of the College of Agriculture Outstanding Advisor and Faculty of the Semester awards.

Financial Assistance
Numerous departmental scholarships are available to students majoring in horticulture. K-State students are routinely among the recipients of the more than 30 national horticulture scholarships that are available. In addition, several part-time positions are available in the K-State Gardens, greenhouse complex, and on various research projects.

"Horticulture is a career that makes people smile. Faculty here really enjoy helping students find a rewarding career path."

Kim Williams, Ph.D.
Professor, Floriculture
Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources

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