
School of Agriculture and Home Economics

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Historical Development

The School of Agriculture and Home Economics' history is firmly rooted in the tremendously productive San Joaquin Valley—the number one production region in the number one agricultural state in the nation. Prior to 1947, a limited agriculture curriculum was offered through the Department of Biology. During 1947–51 twelve agricultural department faculty were hired, curriculum was developed, and the first farm laboratory was established at Hammer Field. The original twelve BA program areas and a two-year technical agriculture program have been expanded to the current thirty-seven BS and BA program areas offered today. During the 50's, the Department became the Division of Agriculture composed of three departments—Agricultural Mechanics, Animal Science and Plant Science. Within this same period, leaders in the California agricultural industry began a state-wide fund-raising effort to acquire the present 1,200-acre agricultural laboratory and university site. The objective was "to establish a School of Agriculture" in the number one agricultural region of the nation. The division was renamed the School of Agriculture in 1968 and an MS program was established for Animal Science and Plant Science. Shortly thereafter, the name was changed to the School of Agricultural Sciences. The Agricultural Economics Department was established during the 1969–70 academic year. In 1977 the Department of Family Studies and Home Economics joined the school and the name was changed to the present School of Agriculture and Home Economics. The Department of Industrial Arts and Technology became a part of the school in 1980. The agricultural laboratory was enhanced by the 1983 acquisition of a 4,500-acre experimental range in the Sierra Nevada foothills. The most recent (1984) addition to our school is the California

Agricultural Technology Institute, the only institute of its kind in the State, providing leadership and technology transfer to the California agricultural industry.

Within the present six departments (Agricultural Economics; Animal Science and Agricultural Education; Enology, Food Science and Nutrition; Family Studies and Home Economics; Industrial Technology; and Plant Science and Mechanized Agriculture), the school has over 2,000 undergraduate majors and 240 graduate students. Many of the 83 faculty are recognized nationally and internationally and are well-qualified professionals who maintain up-to-date industry contacts. The faculty exhibit a special interest in student advising and career orientation.

Educational Commitment

The instructional philosophy of the school insures that its students have:

1. A sound scientific background to understand and contribute to today's scientific agriculture;
2. The technical knowledge and managerial skills necessary for entry into an occupation or for pursuing advanced education;
3. A well-rounded general education for becoming a responsible citizen in our society;
4. Motivation through close student-teacher working relationships in the classroom and laboratory;
5. An opportunity for "hands-on" field experience and experimentation techniques via a project program and research projects with faculty in the California Agricultural Technology Institute; and
6. Access to interdisciplinary programs available in cooperation with other schools and divisions.

The school strives to provide leadership in the university, community, state, nation, and world in the fields of agriculture, home economics and industrial technology through the development of new and updated instructional programs.

Degrees Offered

B.A. in Home Economics, Industrial Arts

B.S. in Agricultural Business, Agricultural Education,
Agricultural Science, Industrial Technology

M.A. in Industrial Arts

M.S. in Agricultural Business, Agriculture, Home Economics

Minors: Agriculture, Home Economics, Industrial Arts.

Academic Planning

To assure rapid and satisfactory progress through a degree program, high school and community college students should be competent in the following areas: biological sciences, such as botany and zoology or physiology; physical sciences, such as chemistry through organic chemistry; mathematics through intermediate algebra; English grammar and composition skills; public speaking ability; and agricultural science, home economics, or industrial arts foundation courses.

Each student should consult his or her assigned adviser for program planning assistance at least once a semester. An individually-tailored major *Program of Study* is designed to prepare the student for his or her specific career objective. Flexibility is an important characteristic of the school's major programs. The adviser will assist the student in evaluating the alternatives this flexibility allows. Departmental advisers can and do play a significant role in planning educational programs because of their close personal contact with