

Agricultural Sciences

Center for Agricultural and Food Science Technology (CAFST)



Program Emphasis

Agriculture is the backbone of Minnesota's economy, providing more than 340,000 state jobs and adding more than \$75 billion in economic opportunity. Minnesota ranks 4th in the United States in agricultural exportation statistics, equating to \$8.2 billion a year. In 2016, close to 4,500 careers were posted across southeast Minnesota in agriculture and food science technology.

A degree in Agricultural Science will prepare students to fill these job opportunities by studying production agriculture and explore the ethical and environmental solutions to feeding a growing global population. Riverland Community College has a rich tradition and commitment to agricultural education and innovation. Our Farm Business Management Program is one of top enrolling programs. We provide students with a 'Best-In-Class' experience while encouraging students to find creative solutions to everyday issues.

Degree Options

- Agribusiness certificate (19 cr.)
- Precision Agriculture certificate (17 cr.)
- Associates of Science (A.S.) in Agricultural Sciences (60 cr.)
- Associates of Arts (A.A.) in Agricultural Sciences (60 cr.)

Students will complete courses in soil science, animal science, precision agriculture, agricultural business, and crop production.

Potential Careers

- Agronomist
- Soil Scientist
- Crop Applicator
- Precision Ag Data Manager
- Fertilizer/Seed/Chemical Sales Representative
- Animal Scientist
- Product Technician
- Service Technician
- Quality Control Analyst

A list of current career postings with many of the local, regional, and national agricultural companies are provided on the Riverland Agricultural and Food Science Technology Club website (riverlandagclub.theaet.com) under the 'Careers/Internships' page.

Expected Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Tuition and fee charges are posted online at the Riverland Community College website (riverland.edu). These fees do not include student housing or textbook charges. A tentative budget can be developed for those majoring in Agricultural Sciences (subject to change):

Year 1 Budget:

30 credits x \$201.06/credit = -\$6,031.80

Ag Science Scholarship: +1,000 (range from \$500-2,000)

Summer Internship = 35 hours/week x 8 weeks x \$13/hour = +\$3,640

Year 1 Total Cost = \$1,391.80



Year 2 Budget:

30 credits x \$201.06/credit = -\$6,031.80

Ag Science Scholarship: +1,000 (range from \$500-2,000)

Summer Internship = 35 hours/week x 8 weeks x \$14/hour = +\$3,920

Year 2 Total Cost = \$1,111.80

Total Potential Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Agricultural Sciences Degree = \$2,503.60

Scholarships

Agricultural Science majors are strongly encouraged to apply for Riverland Community College Foundation scholarships that pertain to Agricultural Science majors. *Most Agricultural Science majors who apply for Riverland scholarships receive a scholarship award.*

Available scholarships for Agricultural Science majors:

- Up to 72 Workforce Scholarships of \$2,500 per year (can be renewed for a second year)
- Numerous scholarships of \$750 or more per year from The Hormel Foundation Agriculture and Food Science Scholarship
- Numerous scholarships of \$1,000 per year from Pat and Gary Ray Agriculture Scholarship
- Numerous scholarships of \$1,000 from Dr. C. Jerry Nelson Scholarship for 2020 high school grads

How to Apply:

1. Go to riverland.edu/scholarships and click on "Apply"
2. Create an account
3. Click on the link in your email and complete the scholarship application
4. Be sure to list Agriculture or Food Science as your major

Students who qualify for The Hormel Foundation Austin Assurance Scholarship are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to meet tuition costs.

Continued

Internships

Agricultural Science students are highly encouraged to complete one to two internships during their degree completion. Internships are ways for students to expand on what they have learned in the classroom, receive work experience, earn a wage, and can lead to full-time employment after degree completion. Students are encouraged to explore open careers and internships on the Riverland Agricultural and Food Science Technology website riverlandagclub.theaet.com under the 'Careers/Internships' page. Potential options include:

- Crop Scout Intern
- Field Plot Intern
- Lab Technician
- Ag Sales Intern
- Ag/Food Science Intern
- DNR/Conservation Intern

Salary

Agricultural Science majors can expect to earn anywhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000 upon graduation. Salaries increase with experience and education and can earn anywhere from \$60,000 to \$100,000. Agricultural Science interns can expect to make \$12-17/ hour.

Transfer Pathways

An A.S. and A.A. degree option has many articulation and transfer opportunities for enrolled students who wish to continue their agricultural education at many local and regional agricultural institutions. Students can seamlessly transfer to these universities:

- University of Minnesota
- South Dakota State University
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- Southwest Minnesota State University.

Programs that our Agricultural Students decide to major in once graduating from Riverland:

- Agronomy
- Precision Agriculture
- Agricultural Business
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Engineering / Systems Technology
- Civil Engineering
- Natural Resources

Activities and Associations

All enrolled Agricultural Science students are required to be members of the Riverland Agricultural and Food Science Technology Club. The Ag Club serves as the Riverland FFA Alumni chapter and National Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS). Since its formation in Fall 2017, the Club has developed into a progressive community of on-campus leaders who seek leadership development training, exploring important agricultural and science-related topics, and impactful service projects. The Ag Club integrates "intra-curricularly" what students learn in the classroom with real world experiences. Please visit the club's website at riverlandagclub.theaet.com or visit the Riverland Agricultural and Food Science Technology Club page on Facebook



for more information. To learn more about FFA Alumni, please see mnffaalumni.org. For more on National PAS, visit nationalpas.org

Clubs and Organizations

- Riverland Agricultural and Food Science Technology Club
- Honors College
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Multi-Cultural Club
- Student Senate

Facilities

Riverland's CAFST is located inside of the Austin West campus at Riverland Community College in Austin, MN. The Center is situated between two land-grant universities with close proximity to on-campus student housing and reliable transportation options. Riverland's Ag Center contains ample resources for student learning and engagement including:

- A dedicated Agricultural Science classroom and Precision Agriculture laboratory
- A state of the art Precision Agriculture laboratory
- A high-tech and industry-leading Food Science Laboratory
- John Deere Combine Simulator

Riverland Community College maintains a cooperative research farm near Lansing, MN, with a number of local agricultural cooperators named Sustainable Answer Acre where courses are implemented into the research plots. The Ag industry surrounds all Riverland campuses for many miles and serves as the heart of the state's economy, affording students an ideal opportunity to begin their career in agriculture and food science technology.

For More Information

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Riverland Admissions at 507-433-0600 or admissions@riverland.edu