Plant Science (PTSC)

Faculty
Burt H. Bluhm, Assistant Professor
John R. Clark, University Professor
Jim Correll, Professor
Michael R. Evans, Professor
David Hensley, Professor
Douglas Edward Karcher, Associate Professor
Terry Kirkpatrick, Professor
Ken L. Korth, Professor
Gene Milus, Professor
Mike Richardson, Professor
Robert Thomas Robbins, University Professor
Curt R. Rom, Professor
Craig S. Rothrock, Professor
John C. Rupe, Professor
Ron J. Sayler, Assistant Professor
Vibha Srivastava, Professor
David Orien TeBeest, University Professor
Ioannis E. Tzanetakis, Associate Professor

The doctoral program in Plant Science is an interdepartmental program involving the departments of Plant Pathology and Horticulture.

Degree Conferred:
Ph.D. (PTSC)

Areas of Concentration: Horticulture, Plant Pathology.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: Biological control of plant diseases, breeding for disease resistance, fungal biology, diseases of crop plants, mycotoxicology, nematology, physiology of parasitism and resistance, plant disease control, phytobacteriology, soil microbiology, virology, genetics and plant breeding of fruit or vegetable crops, physiology and culture of fruit, vegetable or ornamental plants, and physiology and management of turfgrasses.

Prerequisites to Degree Program: In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School, the student must submit to the Chair of Studies a statement of interest, three letters of recommendation, which evaluate the potential of the student to pursue advanced graduate studies, and scores from the Graduate Record Examinations. International students must submit TOEFL scores with their application. Approval by the Plant Science Steering Committee is also necessary for acceptance into the program of study leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Admissions Requirements for Entry: The requirements for admission to the plant science Ph.D. program include the following: completion of an M.S. degree in a relevant biological science with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 or better (of 4.00), submission of scores from the verbal, quantitative, and written Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), three letters of recommendation, and official transcripts from all institutions attended.

Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy Degree: Each candidate must present a doctoral dissertation based on original research. Course requirements are established by the student’s major adviser and the graduate advisory committee. The student must pass a candidacy examination at least two semesters before the expected conferral date of the degree. A final examination on the doctoral dissertation and cognate areas must be passed at least two weeks before the time of expected degree conferral. Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 2.85 or better (3.00 to graduate) as consistent with the policy of the Graduate School.

Students in the Plant Pathology concentration in the Plant Science program are required to complete three graduate credits in horticulture, six graduate credits in an area appropriate to their dissertation research, two credits in the Plant Science Colloquium, PLPA 4223, PLPA 5303, PLPA 5313, and PLPA 5404. In addition, students are expected to complete three of the following courses: PLPA 5603, PLPA 6203, PLPA 6303 or PLPA 6503. All students in the plant pathology concentration are expected to attend seminars in both departments and are required to present at least four seminars (while enrolled for credit in PLPA 5001 Seminar (Sp, Fa)) to include the following: a research proposal seminar, two topic seminars on subjects other than their research area and an exit seminar describing the results of their dissertation research. Plant pathology will permit enrollment in one semester in CSES 5103 to be used as a substitute for one of the two topic seminars. All Ph.D. candidates are expected to gain teaching experience by assisting in the teaching of a regularly scheduled plant pathology course for one semester. Students with prior teaching experience can appeal to the Graduate Admissions Committee for a waiver in the Department of Plant Pathology. Additional requirements or waivers from these requirements are available in the Graduate Handbook in Plant Pathology.

Students in the Horticulture Concentration must take at least three graduate course credits in each of the participating departments (horticulture and plant pathology), at least six elective graduate credits outside of the program in an area appropriate to their dissertation research, two semesters (2 credits) in PTSC 6101 Colloquium in Plant Sciences (Sp), one in each department, and students are required to present at least four seminars (while enrolled for credit in HORT 5001 Seminar (Sp, Fa)) to include the following: a research proposal seminar, two topic seminars on subjects other than their research area and an exit seminar describing the results of their dissertation research.

All students will be expected to complete 18 hours of dissertation research.