Program Description

The Agricultural Industries Certificate Program is for students who are interested in gaining in-depth agricultural industry and business knowledge to apply to their own operation or to launch a career in the industry. This program consists of both on-campus learning and hands-on experiences through a professional internship. The program also allows students the flexibility to focus on agronomy, horticulture, animal science or agricultural business.

Academics

This 18-month intensive program integrates a wide range of disciplines including business, leadership, technology and communications. It includes hands-on laboratory learning and lecture/discussion/problem solving formats. A total of 48 credits and a minimum of 2.0 GPA are required for graduation. Of the 48 credits, 30 are for required classes and the remaining 18 can vary with area of interest including agronomy, animal science, horticulture, welding and mechanics.

Student Clubs and Organizations

Students in this program have the opportunity to get involved in many clubs including the Agronomy Club, Horticulture Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, NAMA, Dairy Club as well as many others. It is because of the diverse background of students in this program that we are able to find clubs that match their area of interest. Involvement in these clubs provides students the opportunity to travel throughout Michigan and across the United States. These clubs allow students to interact with other students and business professionals in their area of interest.

Can I transfer to a four-year degree program?

The Agricultural Industries Program was not developed to be a stepping stone to a four-year degree, but it is possible for students to transfer if they meet the specified transfer requirements.

Internship

All students in the Agricultural Industries Program are required to do an internship. There is a wide array of local, state and national internship opportunities available. Students will be guided on the selection of the internship that best fits their goals. The internship provides a hands-on learning experience and an opportunity to see what lies ahead in their career area. Students who travel out of state for their internship experience new places, activities and ideas that may enhance their lives and careers. Below are a few of the recent internship experiences:

- Wheat harvesting crew
- Scouting, spraying, spreading for local agricultural chemical companies
- Different research facilities like Pioneer and Kellogg Biological Station
- Retail sales for different agribusiness operations
- Herbrucks Poultry Operation
- Beef Cattle Operation in Texas
Study Abroad Opportunities

MSU has the leading study abroad program of all US public universities and colleges. Study abroad programs are offered on every continent and range from three-week to semester-long programs. It is easy to find a study abroad program that fits a particular interest. Some students have opted to complete a study abroad at the end of a second spring semester.

Career Opportunities

Students who choose the Agricultural Industries Program generally choose careers in the following areas:
- Farm management
- Agricultural retail store management
- Farm input sales (seed, fertilizer, chemicals, feed)
- Agricultural processing or manufacturing
- Agricultural finance (banking, farm credit, insurance)

Admission Requirements

The Agricultural Industries Program is for students who have a desire to work in a variety of career fields within the agricultural industry.

To be admitted into the program, students must have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least a 2.0 GPA. ACT or SAT scores are used as needed in the admission process.

This is an excellent program for recent high school graduates, workers seeking to retrain or retool, and those seeking a career change to explore new options.

For More Information

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