

Applying to MSU and Earning a Degree or Certificate in Horticulture

Options Available to Students

Students interested in plant science as a career may (a) begin our four-year bachelor's degree program as a high school graduate (b) complete a certificate program in the Institute of Agriculture Technology or (c) begin a bachelor's degree program as a transfer student.

A) Seeking Admission to a Bachelor's Program at the Completion of High School

Students seeking admission to the bachelor's degree program should apply to MSU in the fall of their senior year; prior to November 1 is best. Applicants should be diligent about completing all aspects of the application, and give thought to the required essay question. The ACT or SAT score and a student's high school GPA both have a large influence in determining the educational path students will follow after high school. The middle 50 percent of incoming MSU freshmen for Fall 2012 fit within the profile listed below, so 25% of students score lower than indicated and 25% score higher:

High school GPA: 3.4 - 3.9

Composite ACT: 23 – 28 or Composite SAT (Critical Reading and Math): 1020-1220

There are no set 'rules' on what ACT score and GPA are needed for admission to MSU for a four year degree program, but a ≤ 2.5 GPA and an ACT score ≤ 20 probably will be a challenge to admission. However, all students interested in a bachelor's degree are encouraged to apply and should know there are other pathways to a bachelor's degree in these disciplines, should he/she be denied direct admission to MSU. Two optional pathways are (1) attending the Institute of Agricultural Technology or (2) attending a community college and then transferring to MSU. Both pathways permit a student to apply for transfer into a bachelor's program *when the transfer criteria are met*. Students who are interested in a Bachelor of Science program either as freshmen or transfer students are encouraged to contact our Undergraduate Advisor Susan Gruber (grubers@msu.edu or 517-353-0326).

B) Seeking Admission to the Institute of Agricultural Technology (also called Ag Tech or IAT) at MSU

Some students are not interested in a four-year degree after high school and prefer the Institute of Agricultural Technology ('Ag Tech') certificate program. Also, the Ag Tech program is an excellent choice for non-traditional students and those already in the green industries, seeking additional education and certification. Ag Tech has career-ready programs with high employment rates after completion of the Certificate. Admission to Ag Tech is through a separate application process; students apply directly to the Institute, which is part of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Ag Tech students have the same rights and privileges as other MSU students. The web site for the Institute of Agricultural Technology is <http://iat.msu.edu/>.

The Department of Horticulture offers two Ag Tech Certificate programs on the MSU campus; Landscape and Nursery Management, and Applied Plant Science. Information is also available at: www.hrt.msu.edu/2-year-institute-of-agricultural-technology-certificate-programs.

The Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences offers Certificate Programs in Agricultural Industries and Turfgrass Management. http://www.psm.msu.edu/degree_certificate_programs#cert.

B) Seeking Admission to the Institute of Agricultural Technology (cont.)

Students in the on-campus Certificate programs usually attend MSU for four semesters and complete an internship in the summer after their first year/two semesters. Although there is no set date for submission of an application, high school students are encouraged to meet with the program coordinator, and to apply in the fall of their senior year.

Off-campus certificate programs offer students the opportunity to complete a certificate program by taking evening classes offered by MSU and community college partners. Students in these programs have the option to earn an Associate Degree from the partner community college in addition to the Certificate from MSU. More information is available about the off-campus programs at: www.hrt.msu.edu/2-year-institute-of-agricultural-technology-certificate-programs.

C) Admission as a Transfer Student

Transferring from Ag Tech to a Bachelor's Program at MSU

Some students come to MSU in the Ag Tech Program and decide they want to continue their education by completing a bachelor's degree at MSU. Ag Tech students who **complete** the IAT program with a 3.0 or higher GPA and meet the other Ag Tech transfer criteria (see link below) can choose to apply for transfer admission and enter the Bachelor of Science program. Ag Tech students who plan to transfer to the Bachelor's program should consult with their certificate program coordinator for guidance.

<http://www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=114#s1441>

Transferring from a Community College to a Bachelor's Program at MSU

Students who attend a community college or another college or university after high school must apply for admission as transfer students. Students who want to transfer to MSU should apply in December or January for Admission to MSU the following fall. Applications should be completed no later than April 1. Send transcripts after spring enrollment so the courses appear (in progress) on the transcript submitted with the application. Students should also send their spring transcripts *immediately* after spring semester grades are completed. All courses required for transfer "must be completed at least one full semester before the desired term of enrollment at MSU." For example, if applying for fall 2018 admission, all transfer courses must be completed by spring 2018; summer courses can't be evaluated in time for admission for fall semester. Please contact the Undergraduate Advisor Susan Gruber at grubers@msu.edu or 517-353- 0326 for help with the transfer process, and choosing classes to take in preparation for transfer.

MSU 's Transfer Admission Criteria states:

Admission as a transfer student is based on consistent academic performance, including all grades, courses, and attempts at all previously attended institutions. Applicants with a GPA below 2.0 are not admissible. Admission consideration is stronger for applicants who have completed 28 or more college credits and meet the following criteria:

- 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Completion of one year of English composition equivalent to Michigan State's Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures course Writing: Science and Technology (WRA 110).
- Completion of a math course equivalent to MSU's Intermediate Algebra (MTH 1825) course or higher; College Algebra (MTH 103) is preferred.

Resources for Transfer Students:

The database www.transfer.msu.edu is accessible by anyone. It lists the course transfer equivalents by MSU course and by transfer institution. This web site should be consulted to determine what courses to take prior to applying to MSU to meet the above requirements.

Transfer Guidelines specific to Institutions can be found at: <http://admissions.msu.edu/transferguide/default.asp>. The guidelines include course numbers for the required WRA and Math courses, as well as comprehensive lists of courses which may be used to fulfill MSU's Integrative Studies requirements for humanities and social science. Please note that the ISS 200 requirement can be met by an Economics course which is a requirement for students in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Only one social science course will be applied to degree requirements in most cases, unless an ISS 300 level equivalent course is available at the transfer school.

IMPORTANT: Students in these degree programs are required to take chemistry and plant biology to satisfy the physical and biological sciences requirements. Other courses listed on the general transfer guides for Integrated Biological and Physical Sciences will not replace these requirements and will apply as electives only.

Please note that only 60 credits from Community College courses will be accepted in transfer toward a Bachelor's degree. Courses over that limit may be used to satisfy content requirements but with no credit hours applied toward the 120 total needed for graduation. There are 20-30 credits of open electives in these degree programs. Students may apply any courses that transfer for course or general credit (GCU) to those electives. Only courses with a 2.0 or better grade will be considered for transfer credit.