DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VICTOR NJITI, PH.D.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Morris-Boykin Agricultural Science Building.
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Agriculture is the leading industry in Mississippi, with major production in poultry, forestry, cereal crops, horticultural crops, vegetables, cattle, and hogs. In response to this demand, Alcorn State University's Department of Agriculture is committed to preparing students for successful careers in Agricultural Sciences. The department offers programs in eight specialized areas: Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Biotechnology, Animal and Pre-Veterinary Science, General Agricultural Education, Natural Resources and Environmental Science, Plant, Soil, and Horticultural Sciences, and Poultry Science.

Each program is designed to provide a unique blend of coursework, including lectures, lab courses, seminars, and internships. The Alcorn Agricultural Experiment Station, which spans 1,456 acres, cultivates various food, feed, and fuel crops using different agronomic practices. It features modern facilities, greenhouses, and animal farms that enhance practical learning and complement classroom education.

The Morris Boykin Agricultural Building, Biotechnology Building, and Ecology Building house modern and spacious classrooms, as well as well-equipped teaching labs. The department currently has 25 full-time faculty members, covering a wide range of expertise. Among them, 10 faculty members have established research programs in their respective fields. The agriculture faculty consistently secures competitive funding and actively trains and mentors undergraduate student researchers, in addition to advising master's students.

Our programs are designed to offer the latest curriculum and best practices to meet the present and future needs of the agriculture industry.

Department's objectives:

1. To effectively prepare students for careers in agriculture, advanced education, and lifelong learning.
2. To provide opportunities for students to connect with the agricultural community through interaction with private industries, government agencies, and other industry professionals.
3. To prepare students for graduate and professional schools

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences: Agricultural Biotechnology Emphasis (120 Credit Hours)

Program outcomes:

1. Graduates will acquire theoretical knowledge in various branches of biotechnology, including physiology, genetics and breeding, cell biology, biochemistry, microbiology, fermentation technology, environmental biotechnology, and tissue culture techniques.
2. Graduates will develop a strong scientific background through practical experience, such as conducting laboratory research, analyzing data, and presenting at research meetings. This experience will be centered on issues, research, and course materials relevant to agriculture.
3. Graduates will gain technological expertise by integrating disciplinary and interdisciplinary aspects of biotechnology.
4. Graduates will develop global competencies in both basic and applied biological sciences. The knowledge acquired during their biotechnology studies will enable them to apply this knowledge in industry and conduct research in their future careers.

Freshman Year (31)								
First Semester	**Class**		**Hrs.**		**Second Semester**	**Class**		**Hrs.**
BI 125	General Biology I		3		CH 122	General Chemistry		3
CH 121	General Chemistry		3		CH 122L	General Chemistry I Lab		1
CH 121L	General Chemistry Lab		1		CS 100	Intro to Computers		1
EN 111	Composition I		3		EN 112	Composition II		3
HI 111	World Civilization I		3		HI 112	World Civilization		3
UL 101	University Life		1		ND 101	Health and Wellness		1
PE 101 or MS 101	Physical Education or Fund of Leadership and Management I		1		PS 122	Crop Production		3
AE 111	Fundamentals & Concepts in Ag		3		PS 122L	Crop Production		1
	TOTAL		**18**			**TOTAL**		**16**
Sophomore Year (33)								
CH 221	Organic Chemistry		3		PY 215	General Physics (Non-calculus)		3
CH 221L	Organic Chemistry Lab		1		PY 215L	General Physics lab (non-calculus)		1
EN 213	Studies in Literature		3		PH 132	General Psychology		3
MA 121	College Algebra		3		PS 220 or PS 330	Prin of Cell Tissue Culture or Intro to Biotechnology		3
PS 205	Principles of Genetics		3		PS 220L or PS 330L	Prin of Cell Tissue Culture Lab or Intro to Biotechnology Lab		1
PY 216	General Physics (Non-calculus)		3		SA 223	Oral Communication		3
SS 111	Social Institutions		3					
	TOTAL		**19**			**TOTAL**		**14**
Junior Year (31)								
CH 331	Biochemistry		3		BI 327	Cell Biology		3
CH 331L	Biochemistry Lab		1		BI 327L	Cell Biology Lab		1
PS 315	Soils		3		CH 332	Biochemistry		3
PS 316	General Horticulture		3		CH 332L	Biochemistry Lab		1
PS 316L	General Horticulture lab		1		PS 305	Plant Develop Physiology		3
PS 346	General Entomology		3		PS 320	Biomass and Bioenergy		3
	TOTAL		**14**			**TOTAL**		**14**
Senior Year (25)								
AE 463	Agri Statistics		3		AG 439	Internship		3
PS 439	Soil Microbiology		3		AG 486	Agriculture Seminar		1
PS 441	General Plant Pathology		3		PS 403	Current Issues in Biotech		3
PS 495	Experimental Design		3		PS 475	Plant Breeding		3
					PS 497 or PS 300	Ag. Environmental Law or General Bioethics		3
	TOTAL		**12**			**TOTAL**		**13**

* A grade of C or higher is required to graduate in agriculture courses and in senior and junior-level non-agriculture courses.