

SOIL SCIENCE (SOILS) - BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Soil scientists investigate the physical, chemical and biological characteristics and behavior of soils, their description and classification, and their management for both agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Career opportunities include: industry jobs; environmental consulting firms; and federal, state and local government careers working on various environmental, agricultural and ecological projects.

Crop production and plant growth are emphasized in the soils concentration. Soil management, soil conservation, and soil reclamation are related to plant growth for those students interested in both private industry and government employment opportunities as well as farm management.

Students must complete all University degree requirements, which include: General Education requirements, Viewing a Wider World requirements, and elective credits to total at least 120 credits with 48 credits in courses numbered 300 or above. Developmental coursework will not count towards the degree requirements and/or elective credits, but may be needed in order to take the necessary English and Mathematics coursework. In addition to the courses listed for each major, you must take 35 credits in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and at least 24 credits of soil science related courses with a grade of C- or above including:

Prefix	Title	Credits
General Education		
<i>Area I: Communications</i>		
<i>English Composition - Level 1</i> ¹		4
<i>English Composition - Level 2</i>		
ENGL 2210G	Professional and Technical Communication	3
or ENGL 2210H	Professional and Technical Communication	
<i>Oral Communication</i> ¹		3
<i>Area II: Mathematics</i>		
Choose from one of the following:		3-4
MATH 1430G	Applications of Calculus I ²	
MATH 1511G	Calculus and Analytic Geometry I ²	
or MATH 1511H	Calculus and Analytic Geometry I Honors	
<i>Area III/IV: Laboratory Science and Social/Behavioral Sciences</i>		11
CHEM 1215G	General Chemistry I Lecture and Laboratory for STEM Majors	
CHEM 1225G	General Chemistry II Lecture and Laboratory for STEM Majors	
<i>Area IV: Social & Behavioral Sciences Course (3 credits)</i> ¹		
<i>Area V: Humanities</i> ¹		3
<i>Area VI: Creative and Fine Arts</i> ¹		3
<i>General Education Elective</i>		
GEOL 1110G	Physical Geology	4
Viewing A Wider World ³		6
Departmental/College Requirements		24
SOIL 2110 & 2110L	Introduction to Soil Science and Introduction to Soil Science Laboratory	
SOIL 312 & 312 L	Soil Management and Fertility and Soil Management and Fertility Lab	

SOIL 447	Seminar	
Choose 15 credits of SOIL Courses (300-level or above)		
SOIL 424	Soil Chemistry	
or SOIL 479	Environmental Soil Chemistry	
SOIL 456	Irrigation and Drainage	
SOIL 472	Soil Morphology and Classification	
SOIL 476	Soil Microbiology	
SOIL 476 L	Soil Microbiology Laboratory	
SOIL 477	Environmental Soil Physics	
SOIL 477 L	Environmental Soil Physics Laboratory	
<i>Concentration Coursework</i> ⁴		
Select at least one course from each of the following four categories to bring total concentration coursework to 30 credits		30
All course selections must in addition to the courses required under the Departmental/College and Non-Departmental Requirements sections listed above		
<i>Category 1: Crop Production & Protection</i>		
Course category areas are as follows:		
Agronomy		
Entomology		
Plant Pathology		
Weed Science		
Horticulture		
<i>Category 2: Plant Biology & Ecology</i>		
Course category areas are as follows:		
Biology		
Rangeland Resources		
<i>Category 3: Soil, Water & Agricultural Business Management</i>		
Course category areas are as follows:		
Agricultural Economics		
Geography		
Economic Geology		
Range Science		
Soil		
<i>Category 4: Advanced Science, Computing & Statistics</i>		
Course category areas are as follows:		
Math		
Chemistry		
Physics		
Computer-Oriented		
Statistics or Applied Statistics		
Non-Departmental Requirements (in addition to Gen.Ed/VWW)		
CHEM 2120	Integrated Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry (CHEM 2120 must be taken with associated 1-cr CHEM lab)	3
or ANSC 1170	Introduction to Animal Metabolism	
PHYS 1230G	Algebra-Based Physics I	3
Choose two from the following (lab is NOT required for this major):		6
BIOL 2610G	Principles of Biology: Biodiversity, Ecology, and Evolution	
BIOL 311	General Microbiology	
BIOL 2110G	Principles of Biology: Cellular and Molecular Biology	
Second Language: (not required)		
Electives, to bring the total credits to 120 ⁵		12-14
Total Credits		120

¹ See the General Education (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/general-education-viewing-wider-world/>) section of the catalog for a full list of courses

² MATH 1430G Applications of Calculus I or MATH 1511G Calculus and Analytic Geometry I is required for the degree but students may need to take any prerequisites to enter either course first.

³ See the Viewing a Wider World (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/general-education-viewing-wider-world/#viewingawiderworldtext>) section of the catalog for a full list of courses

⁴ Please see your academic advisor for a list of appropriate courses to satisfy the concentration coursework requirements.

⁵ Elective credit may vary based on prerequisites, dual credit, AP credit, double majors, and/or minor coursework. The amount indicated in the requirements list is the amount needed to bring the total to 120 credits and may appear in variable form based on the degree. However, students may end up needing to complete more or less on a case-by-case basis and students should discuss elective requirements with their advisor.