Discover Organics

College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Department of Plant Sciences

Organic Production

Major in

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Or view these Web addresses:
Organic Production:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/organic/
Career Examples:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/jobs/
Department of Plant Sciences:
http://plantsciences.utk.edu/
College of Agricultural Sciences
and Natural Resources:
http://casnr.tennessee.edu/
Undergraduate Admissions:
http://admissions.utk.edu/undergraduate/
Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships:
http://web.utk.edu/~finaid/

WHAT IS ORGANIC PRODUCTION?
Organic production, a concentration of study in the Department of Plant Sciences, integrates plant science with soil science, agricultural economics, entomology, ecology and plant pathology to give students the knowledge and skills needed for production and management of organic cropping systems. This program is offered to those interested in owning or managing organic farms, working with Extension outreach programs or governmental and nongovernmental organizations, joining the Peace Corps or other international agricultural development efforts, consulting, pursuing a graduate education in agronomy or horticulture, or working in other areas of the growing organic foods and agricultural products industry. Students have the opportunity to develop a personalized program in organic production by selecting from technical electives offered in a wide variety of areas, including environmental sciences, food science, marketing, sociology, foreign language and other areas related to agricultural sustainability.

Financial Aid
In addition to the Tennessee Hope Scholarship, a variety of financial aid is available. About half of the students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources receive scholarships directly from the college, averaging about $2000 per student annually. Students are also eligible for a variety of university scholarships, as well as scholarships offered by horticultural organizations.
CAREERS

Graduates in organic production enter a variety of careers. Organic horticulturists and agronomists are managers of organic farms or vineyards, consultants, orchardists, teachers, Extension agents, sales representatives, Peace Corps volunteers, researchers and entrepreneurs. Growth in markets for organically produced vegetables, fruits, grains and other agricultural products creates a constant need for well-trained professionals to join this rapidly growing and evolving industry.

STUDIES

The organic production curriculum builds upon the university-wide general education requirements, along with critical courses in botany, ecology, soils, entomology, plant pathology and agricultural economics, and adds a set of departmental courses specific to the skills needed for students to be successful professionals. Students customize their program by selecting electives, which allows them to focus on the aspects of organic production and agricultural sustainability most relevant to their chosen career paths.

STUDIES

A variety of student activities are available on campus, ranging from intramural sports and student clubs to student branches of professional societies (e.g., American Society for Horticultural Science, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America). Opportunities exist for students to gain valuable hands-on experience through employment as student workers in research labs, at UT’s Organic Crops Unit or through a wide variety of internships.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Study areas include vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, herbs, field crops and forages. This academic concentration focuses on practical aspects of production and management of organic cropping systems. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of agricultural sustainability and are encouraged to enhance their coursework with electives or a minor in fields relating to the economic, social and/or environmental aspects of sustainability.

FUNDAMENTALS

Reinventing the Food System

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