### Degree Info

The interdisciplinary SAFS major serves students interested in working in modern food and agricultural systems and improving the sustainability of those systems. Graduates are ready for careers in agricultural production, food system management, health professions related to food and nutrition, community and economic development, and public policy and analysis.

**Business & Policy students study:**
- Food and agricultural economics, politics, and policy
- Management, with options to emphasize entrepreneurial training for those planning to start a business

### Contact Info

SAFS BS Program Coordinator:
**Dr. Christopher Gabler**  
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School Director:
**Dr. David Hicks**  
david.hicks@utrgv.edu

Associate School Director:  
**Dr. Hudson Deyoe**  
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**SEEMS Office:**  
956-882-5040  
erica.salazar@utrgv.edu

### Additional Info

- Make your education a high priority in your life!
- Be sure to register for classes as soon as possible, as upper-level courses fill up quickly.
- Know your degree plan backwards and forwards so that you know exactly what you need to do to graduate. If you need assistance, please see your advisor or the SAFS Program Coordinator or School Director.
- Plan ahead for the courses that you want to take in the future so that you can be sure to complete all prerequisites before registering.
- Community-Engaged Service Learning/Scholarship (EEMS 4381 & 4382 or CESL 3301 & 3302) are two-semester capstone courses. You will need to have junior standing in order to take them. Take those your junior year, and take two semesters of Interdisciplinary Seminar Series (EEMS 4191 & 4192) in your senior year.
- If you have any problems during registration, please contact the School Director immediately to see if the problem can be fixed at the departmental level.
- Graduation requirements: Minimum 2.50 GPA; at least 42 upper division/advanced hours overall.

### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS (BS)

**Catalog: 2019-20**

### 2019-20 ACADEMIC PLAN

**FIRST YEAR**

- **Fall Semester:**
  - EEMS 3193 Environmental Science: Introduction to Sustainability
  - BIOL 1406 General Biology I or BIOL 1487 Honors
  - COMM 1315 Public Speaking
  - Choose 1 (Communication, Mathematics, BIOL 1407 Gen. Biology II or BIOL 1488 Honors, ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics, UNIV 1301 Learning Framework)
- **Spring Semester:**
  - UNIV 1302 Learning Framework
  - Choose 1 (Communication, Mathematics, BIOL 1407 Gen. Biology II or BIOL 1488 Honors, ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics, HIST 3335 American Environmental History, PHIL 1312 Intro to Social and Political Philosophy, HIST 3300 Histography and Methods)

**SECOND YEAR**

- **Fall Semester:**
  - Choose 1 (Communication, Mathematics, BIOL 4388 Global Change Ecology, Choose 1 (ENVR 3301 Natural Resources Conservation or ENVR 3304 Sustainable Development, Choose 1 (ENVR 3302 Environmental Ethics or PHIL 2324 Professional Ethics: Business)
  - Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, EEMS 4382 Community Engaged Service Learning II or CESL 3302 Community Engaged Scholarship II)
- **Spring Semester:**
  - Choose 1 (Language, Philosophy & Culture, ANTH 4310 Food and Culture, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective)

**THIRD YEAR**

- **Fall Semester:**
  - BIOL 4429 Agroecology
  - HIST 4333 Food and Agricultural History
  - HIST 3300 Histography and Methods
  - Choose 1 (EEMS 4381 Community Engaged Service Learning I or CESL 3301 Community Engaged Scholarship I)
  - Choose 1 (ENVR 3301 Natural Resources Conservation or ENVR 3304 Sustainable Development)
  - Choose 1 (ENVR 3302 Environmental Ethics or PHIL 2324 Professional Ethics: Business)
- **Spring Semester:**
  - EEMS 4193 Interdisciplinary Synthesis 
  - EEMS 4192 Interdisciplinary Seminar Series Spring
  - EEMS 4191 Interdisciplinary Seminar Series Fall

**FOURTH YEAR**

- **Fall Semester:**
  - ECON 3355 Development Economics
  - POLS 4356 U.S. Environmental Policy
  - Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective)
  - Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, EEMS 4382 Community Engaged Service Learning II or CESL 3302 Community Engaged Scholarship II)
  - Choose 1 (Language, Philosophy & Culture, ANTH 4310 Food and Culture, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective, Choose 1 (Business & Policy Elective)
- **Spring Semester:**
  - EEMS 4381 Community Engaged Service Learning I or CESL 3301 Community Engaged Scholarship I
  - Choose 1 (ENVR 3301 Natural Resources Conservation or ENVR 3304 Sustainable Development)
  - Choose 1 (ENVR 3302 Environmental Ethics or PHIL 2324 Professional Ethics: Business)

**Courses in red are part of the General Education Core Curriculum (GEC).**

"Choose 1" Indicates course options. If options are not listed, please review the General Education Core or the degree plan for this major: www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans.
**MILESTONES**

**FIRST YEAR**
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Ecology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- If pursuing a healthcare profession: During summer register for a summer enrichment or graduate/professional school entrance exam prep course.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence. Visit My.UTRGV.edu and check out My Majors.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Look for a service-learning course for guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on Handshake to find a student workshop.
- Get summer plans? Visit Career Center or the student organization in your intended field (e.g., Pre-Vet Club) and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger!

**SECOND YEAR**
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out My Majors!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor. Afterwards, introduce yourself to the health professions faculty advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Continue to nourish professional relationships with faculty in your major.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider going to some place exciting!
- Check out or volunteer for a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps VLink or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch and bring a friend!
- Update your resume in Handshake and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
- If you are pursuing a health medical field, begin shadowing healthcare professionals.
- Check out the Biology department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!
- I have a plan for after graduation.” If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
- Register for your Campstone/senior/portfolio project: BIOL 4400.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate/professional school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.
- Discuss potential letters of reference with your faculty mentors.
- Schedule an appointment with the health professions faculty advisor to discuss future goals. Come prepared with questions and discuss applying to health professions schools.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or visit VLink for options.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps VLink or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch and bring a friend!
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or visit VLink for options.
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.
- Visit the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or a Texas Academy of Science meeting.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Look for a service-learning course for guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
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- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Register for the entrance exam for the graduate/professional school you are pursing (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.).
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out My Majors!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor. Afterwards, introduce yourself to the health professions faculty advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Continue to nourish professional relationships with faculty in your major.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholarship Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
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- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.
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- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or a Texas Academy of Science meeting.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

**APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**
- Complete major foundation classes, such as Ecology, Evolution, and Genetics.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- If pursuing a healthcare profession: During summer register for a summer enrichment or graduate/professional school entrance exam prep course.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence. Visit My.UTRGV.edu and check out My Majors.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about the ideas discussed in class.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Look for a service-learning course for guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g., MLK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program such as invited speakers.
- Join a student organization such as the Pre-Med/Bio-Med club! Visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center or the student organization in your intended field (e.g., pre-Vet Club) and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger! Locate and attend one student workshop.
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
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- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger! Locate and attend one student workshop.
- Update your resume in Handshake and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.
- If you are pursuing a health medical field, begin shadowing healthcare professionals.
- Check out the Biology department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counselling on studentloans.gov.

**CAREERS**

For those looking to work in fields related to agricultural economics, policy and management:
- Farm/ranch manager
- Food service manager
- Transportation, storage, or distribution manager
- Economic or policy analyst
- Agricultural developer
- Buyers or purchasing agents for farm or ranch products

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?”
www.utrgv.edu/careercenter