Bachelor's degree in Environmental Horticulture, Turfgrass Management

WHY STUDY TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT AT UMAINE AND UMASS?

Turfgrass management at the University of Maine and University of Massachusetts provides an excellent combination of in-class instruction and hands-on learning to enable students to find employment in green industry after graduation. This is the first and only program in the Northeast that allows horticulture students to take advantage of the best courses at two universities. Students have the opportunity to participate in an internship with either institution in order to work with industry professionals.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Course offerings at both institutions are diverse and broad. At UMaine, students will receive an education in plant and soil science, horticulture and business management. At UMass, students will take courses in turfgrass management. Students graduating from this program have a competitive edge after receiving training in turfgrass management from a variety of instructors.

When students complete this program, they graduate with two degrees in four years: a bachelor's degree in environmental horticulture from the University Maine (concentration in turfgrass management) and an associate degree in turfgrass management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The first three years will be spent at UMaine, and the final year will be spent at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

Students at both institutions have close relationships with faculty. This creates an open learning environment in the classroom and makes it easy for students to transition from one institution to another. Maine residents pay in-state tuition at the University of Maine and will pay a reduced tuition rate for one year through the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) program tuition break at UMass Amherst (nebhe.org).

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT DEGREE?

There are many opportunities for students graduating with a turfgrass management degree. Some of these include:

- Golf course superintendent
- Athletic grounds superintendent
- Groundskeeper
- Grounds supervisor
- Technical representative
- Golf course design

OUR FACULTY

Our faculty members enjoy facilitating students’ internship experiences. They are knowledgeable about current issues in horticulture and turfgrass management and have strong ties to the industry. Faculty engage in research that is vital to the green industry in the Northeast, and they encourage undergraduate students to be a part of their research projects.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

Agricultural Learning Center is a new outdoor learning laboratory at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. This facility includes a dedicated space for turfgrass students. In addition to the Agricultural Learning Center students will have access to 20 acres of experimental plots dedicated to turf research where they can assist faculty in their research projects.
Lyle E. Littlefield Gardens is a 7-acre ornamental garden at the University of Maine that Lyle Littlefield established in the 1960s. The gardens are an outdoor learning lab for many courses and feature over 2,500 species of plants. Highlights of the garden include hardy magnolias, and lilacs.

Roger Clapp Greenhouses are the site of several University of Maine classes and labs. The greenhouses serve as a year-round green space on campus with a plant collection that includes bananas, succulents and orchids. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities outside of class to broaden their experiences and interact with other students and faculty. Some of these include:

– **Horticulture Club** is a student-led club that was established at the University of Maine in 1989. The horticulture club participates in garden shows, invites guest lecturers to campus, and grows plants for sale on campus.

– **PLANET** sponsors the Professional Landcare Network Student Career Days. While students are at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, they will have the opportunity to join over 800 students and 65 schools in this national undergraduate horticulture conference and competition.

– **Bangor Garden Show** is held in Bangor, Maine. Students have the opportunity to work together to design and build a gardenscape for this show each year.

– **Turf Club** is a UMass student-run group that strives to further the academic and professional development of its students. Club members mentor younger students, provide academic assistance and organize an internship fair to aid in the search for their internships. Members also compete annually at the national GCSSA & STMA Turf Bowl academic competitions.

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

Students work with their adviser at UMaine and staff at UMass in their junior year to transfer to the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.