



University Council

February 27, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2025-2026

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Ex-Officio – Provost Benjamin Ayers

Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to offer the following seven existing majors at external campuses will be an agenda item for the March 6, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

- Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S. Thesis, M.S. Non-Thesis, Ph.D.) on the Tifton Campus
- Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses
- Entomology (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses
- Food Science (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin Campus
- Horticulture (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses

- Plant Pathology (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses
- Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Sanchez", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost Benjamin Ayers  
Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 11, 2025

**Department/Division:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S., Thesis)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Athens

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty members stationed at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences has historically had 2-4 faculty located in Tifton that have advised and trained graduate students. Historically, these graduate students would apply for the degree program via the Athens Campus knowing their advisor, research, and most of their coursework would occur in Tifton and therefore they would be residing in Tifton. Adding the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences to the Tifton Campus would properly account for where these students are located, streamline processes, ensure the proper fees are being assessed, and provide clarity throughout the program, for the college, and university. For the past 2 years there has only been 1 faculty member stationed in Tifton, however, they have continued to train M.S. students averaging 1.7 M.S. students per year over the past 6 years. Recently, a second faculty member was hired that will start in January 2026 and who is expected to recruit graduate students into their program. A third faculty member is expected to be added in fall 2026, further highlighting the need to properly recognize the Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus. Having the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences recognized on the Tifton Campus would be attractive to due to the close association with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), for students from north Florida and southern Georgia that are actively involved with their family farms, and for Extension agents located in southern Georgia that want to pursue an M.S. degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences since a distance option is not available.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. A prospect must satisfy the ADSC departmental and UGA Graduate School requirements, as well as identify a major professor willing to bring the student into their lab, serve as their major advisor, and provide assistantship support if needed. The application and admission file will be evaluated by the ADSC graduate committee who will make their recommendation on acceptance to the Graduate School. The minimum GPA for acceptance by the Graduate School is 3.0. The GRE is not required for the ADSC graduate program. Applicants, as determined by the Graduate School, will have to meet the Graduate School's standard for English proficiency testing.

### **3. Program Content**

The completion requirements for the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences offered in Tifton will be the same for all thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences graduate students as listed in the ADSC Graduate Student Policy and Guide.

The thesis M.S. program of study requires a minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit, including:

- 24 hours of course work with at least 12 hours of courses on the program of study being open only to graduate students;
- 3-6 hours of ADSC 7000, Master's Research, and 3 hours of ADSC 7300, Master's Thesis;
- A minimum of 3 hours of graduate-level coursework in biochemistry;
- 3 hours of graduate-level statistics;
- 1 hour of ADSC 8800, Graduate Seminar

The M.S. thesis consists of a literature review and at least one manuscript suitable for publication in a scientific referred journal. The M.S. degree program is flexible enough to interest students who may want to consider it as a terminal degree program or those who want to use it as a preparatory step for a PhD. The MS degree on the UGA Tifton Campus is typically a 2- to 3-year program. All coursework for the MS degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences can be accomplished through on-campus courses in Tifton and online delivery from faculty at the Athens and Griffin Campuses.

### **4. Student Advising**

The ADSC M.S. program offered in Tifton has the same advisory committee requirements as the degree offered in Athens; however, the primary advisor for Tifton-based students is in Tifton. The student's primary advisor is responsible for day-to-day advising along with input from the student's formal graduate committee. Thesis-based M.S. students are required to have a major advisor that holds graduate faculty status and at least two other committee members as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the UGA Graduate School. At least two-thirds of the student's committee must hold graduate faculty status at the University of Georgia. One member of the committee may be an external member if they hold a terminal degree and are approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus, as established by the University of Georgia Graduate School.

## **6. Program Management**

The thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the UGA Tifton Campus will be managed the same as the M.S. degree offered on the Athens Campus. The Director of Graduate Studies and the ADSC graduate curriculum and affairs committee will make recommendations for acceptance to the Graduate School, will oversee and ensure degree requirements are being adhered to, and will make recommendations to the ADSC graduate faculty for matters that require change of policy and faculty vote. Daily services and program needs will be supported by the faculty advisor resident in Tifton and committee members resident in Tifton. The programs Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator will also be available for support of the student and advisor.

Additional support will be available through the CAES offices in Tifton including the Office of the Assistant Dean Tifton Campus and the CAES Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Office in Athens. Students will take courses offered by UGA faculty in Tifton and via synchronous distance education by faculty in Athens and Griffin. Since students have historically been working and taking courses while residing in Tifton, the framework is already established to support their education with collaboration across multiple CAES departments. The student's major advisor must submit an annual evaluation reporting on the student's progress. At the end of the degree program, the student's committee must file a degree assessment evaluation with the Director of Graduate Studies that evaluates the student and programs proficiency in 1) Communication skills (written – prospectus and research plan, refereed papers, extension bulletins, popular press articles, written thesis; oral – committee meetings, professional presentations, oral defense); 2) Ability to analyze and interpret data (ability to form a hypothesis, have an understanding of experimental design and have the ability to properly design an experiment to test a hypothesis, conduct proper statistical analyses, and form proper conclusions); and 3) Exhibit an advanced level of knowledge in the student's area of study. The student assessments are aggregated annually and reported through the University of Georgia Office of Instruction for formal assessment as required by the University of Georgia Academic Policy 01.06.001 and 01.06.003.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:

- Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
    - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
    - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
    - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
    - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
    - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
    - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
    - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
    - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
    - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
    - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
    - Centennial Garden
    - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. programs in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 11, 2025

**Department/Division:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S., Non-Thesis)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Athens

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences have had the option to pursue their further education under the guidance of faculty members stationed at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences has historically had 2-4 faculty located in Tifton that have advised and trained graduate students. Historically, these graduate students would apply for the degree program via the Athens Campus knowing their advisor, degree-related work, and most of their coursework would occur in Tifton and therefore they would be residing in Tifton. Adding the non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences to the Tifton Campus would properly account for where these students are located, streamline processes, ensure the proper fees are being assessed, and provide clarity throughout the program, for the college, and university. For the past 2 years there has only been 1 faculty member stationed in Tifton, however, they work with Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S., Non-Thesis) students, with 2 students joining the program in 2025. Recently, a second faculty member was hired that will start in January 2026 who is expected to recruit graduate students into their program. A third faculty member is expected to be added in fall 2026, further highlighting the need to properly recognize the non-thesis Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus. Having the non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences recognized on the Tifton Campus would be attractive to due to the close association with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), for students from north Florida and southern Georgia that are actively involved with their family farms, and for Extension agents located in southern Georgia that want to pursue an M.S. degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences since a distance option is not available.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the non-thesis Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. A prospect must satisfy the ADSC departmental and UGA Graduate School requirements, as well as identify a major professor willing to bring the student into their lab and serve as their major advisor. The application and admission file will be evaluated by the ADSC graduate committee who will make their recommendation on acceptance to the Graduate School. The minimum GPA for acceptance by the Graduate School is 3.0. The GRE is not required for the ADSC graduate program. Applicants, as determined by the Graduate School, will have to meet the Graduate School's standard for English proficiency testing.

### **3. Program Content**

The completion requirements for the non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences offered in Tifton will be the same for all non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences graduate students as listed in the ADSC Graduate Student Policy and Guide. The non-thesis M.S. program of study requires that a student complete a minimum of 30 semester hours consisting of:

- At least 24 hours of course work, of which 12 hours must come from the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences or related graduate courses (CRSS, POUL, VPHY etc.);
- 3 hours of ADSC 8700, Special Problems in Animal and Dairy Science I, or ADSC 8710, Special Problems in Animal and Dairy Science II;
- 1 hour of ADSC 8800, Graduate Seminar;
- A minimum of 3 hours of graduate-level coursework in biochemistry;
- 3 hours of graduate-level statistics.

The non-thesis M.S. consists of a committee-approved field project and summary suitable for lay publication, Extension bulletin, or short communication. This degree program is considered a terminal degree program. The non-thesis M.S. degree on the UGA Tifton Campus can be completed in 3 semesters but usually takes 2 years. All coursework for the Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S., Non-Thesis) degree can be accomplished through on-campus courses in Tifton and online delivery from faculty at the Athens and Griffin Campuses.

### **4. Student Advising**

The Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S., Non-Thesis) program offered in Tifton has the same advisory committee requirements as the degree offered in Athens; however, the primary advisor for Tifton-based students is in Tifton. The student's primary advisor is responsible for day-to-day advising along with input from the student's formal graduate committee. Non-thesis-based M.S. students are required to have a major advisor that holds graduate faculty status and at least two other committee members as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the UGA Graduate School. At least two-thirds of the student's committee must hold graduate faculty status at the University of Georgia. One member of the committee may be an external member if they hold a terminal degree and are approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the non-thesis Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus, as established by the University of Georgia Graduate School.

## 6. Program Management

The non-thesis-based Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the UGA Tifton Campus will be managed the same as the degree offered on the Athens Campus. The Director of Graduate Studies and the ADSC graduate curriculum and affairs committee will make recommendations for acceptance to the Graduate School, will oversee and ensure degree requirements are being adhered to, and will make recommendations to the ADSC graduate faculty for matters that require change of policy and faculty vote. Daily services and program needs will be supported by the faculty advisor resident in Tifton and committee members resident in Tifton. The programs' Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator will also be available for support of the student and advisor.

Additional support will be available through the CAES offices in Tifton, including the Office of the Assistant Dean Tifton Campus and the CAES Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Office in Athens. Students will take courses offered by UGA faculty in Tifton and via synchronous distance education by faculty in Athens and Griffin. Since students have historically been working and taking courses while residing in Tifton the framework is already established to support their education with collaboration across multiple CAES departments. The student's major advisor must submit an annual evaluation reporting on the student's progress. At the end of the degree program the student's committee must file a degree assessment evaluation with the Director of Graduate Studies that evaluates the student and programs proficiency in 1) Communication skills (written – prospectus and research plan, refereed papers, extension bulletins, popular press articles, written reports; oral – committee meetings, professional presentations, oral defense); 2) Ability to analyze and interpret data (ability to form a hypothesis, have an understanding of experimental design and have the ability to properly design an experiment to test a hypothesis, conduct proper statistical analyses, and form proper conclusions); and 3) Exhibit an advanced level of knowledge in the student's area of study. The student assessments are aggregated annually and reported through the University of Georgia Office of Instruction for formal assessment as required by the University of Georgia Academic Policy 01.06.001 and 01.06.003.

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  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences

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- Horticulture
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  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the non-thesis Master of Science in Animal and Dairy Sciences program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. programs in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 11, 2025

**Department/Division:** Animal and Dairy Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Animal and Dairy Sciences (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Athens

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences has historically had 2-4 faculty located in Tifton that have advised and trained graduate students. Historically, these graduate students would apply for the degree program via the Athens Campus knowing their advisor, research, and most of their coursework would occur in Tifton and therefore they would be residing in Tifton. Adding the Doctor in Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences to the Tifton Campus would properly account for where these students are located, streamline processes, ensure the proper fees are being assessed, and provide clarity throughout the program, for the college, and university. For the past 2 years, there has only been 1 faculty member stationed in Tifton; however, they have continued to train PhD students, averaging 1.6 PhD students per year over the past 6 years. Recently, a second faculty member was hired to start in January 2026 and who is expected to recruit graduate students into their program. A third faculty member is expected to be added in fall 2026, further highlighting the need to properly recognize the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus. Having the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences recognized on the Tifton Campus would be attractive to due to the close association with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), for students from north Florida and southern Georgia that are actively involved with their family farms, and for Extension agents located in southern Georgia that want to pursue a doctoral degree in Animal and Dairy Sciences.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants should have

completed a thesis-based M.S. program. Exceptional students with undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or greater may be considered for admission directly to the Ph.D. program. A prospect must satisfy the ADSC departmental and UGA Graduate School requirements, as well as identify a major professor willing to bring the student into their lab, serve as their major advisor, and provide assistantship support if needed. The application and admission file will be evaluated by the ADSC graduate committee who will make their recommendation on acceptance. The minimum GPA for acceptance by the Graduate School is 3.0. The GRE is not required for the ADSC graduate program. Applicants, as determined by the Graduate School, will have to meet the Graduate School's standard for English proficiency testing.

### **3. Program Content**

The completion requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences program offered in Tifton will be the same for all Animal and Dairy Science graduate students as listed in the ADSC Graduate Student Policy and Guide. The Ph.D. degree is typically undertaken by students who have already earned an M.S. degree but can also be initiated by exceptionally qualified students who have completed a bachelor's degree. The PhD program of study requires a total of 30 hours, including:

- 16 hours of courses must be intended for doctoral students ( $\geq 8000$  level);
- A minimum of 3 hours each of ADSC 9000, Doctoral Research, and ADSC 9300, Doctoral Dissertation;
- A minimum of 3 hours of doctoral-level coursework in biochemistry or genetics;
- 3 hours of statistics;
- 2 hours of ADSC 8800, Graduate Seminar

The dissertation consists of a literature review and a least two to three manuscripts suitable for publication in a scientific referred journal. The PhD program is typically 3-4 years for students with an M.S. degree and 4-6 years for students with a BS degree. All coursework for the PhD in Animal and Dairy Sciences can be accomplished through on-campus courses in Tifton and online delivery from faculty at the Athens and Griffin Campuses.

### **4. Student Advising**

The Animal and Dairy Sciences (Ph.D.) program offered in Tifton has the same advisory committee requirements as the degree offered in Athens; however, the primary advisor for Tifton-based students is in Tifton. The student's primary advisor is responsible for day-to-day advising along with input from the student's formal graduate committee. Animal and Dairy Sciences doctoral students are required to have a major advisor that holds graduate faculty status and at least three other committee members as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the UGA Graduate School. One member of the committee should be an external member (outside of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences) holding a terminal degree and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus, as established by the University of Georgia Graduate School.

## 6. Program Management

The Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Science on the UGA Tifton Campus will be managed the same as the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science degree offered on the Athens Campus. The Director of Graduate Studies and the ADSC graduate curriculum and affairs committee will make recommendations for acceptance to the Graduate School, will oversee and ensure degree requirements are being adhered to, and will make recommendations to the ADSC graduate faculty for matters that require change of policy and faculty vote. Daily services and program needs will be supported by the faculty advisor resident in Tifton and committee members resident in Tifton. The programs Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator will also be available for support of the student and advisor.

Additional support will be available through the CAES offices in Tifton, including the Office of the Assistant Dean Tifton Campus and the CAES Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Office in Athens. Students will take courses offered by UGA faculty in Tifton and via synchronous distance education by faculty in Athens and Griffin. Since students have historically been working and taking courses while resident in Tifton, the framework is already established to support their education with collaboration across multiple CAES departments. The student's major advisor must submit an annual evaluation reporting on the student's progress. At the end of the degree program, the student's committee must file a degree assessment evaluation with the Director of Graduate Studies that evaluates the student and programs proficiency in 1) Communication skills (written – prospectus and research plan, refereed papers, extension bulletins, popular press articles, written qualifying exam, and written thesis; oral – committee meetings, professional presentations, oral qualifying exam, and oral defense); 2) Ability to analyze and interpret data (ability to form a hypothesis, have an understanding of experimental design and have the ability to properly design an experiment to test a hypothesis, conduct proper statistical analyses, and form proper conclusions); and 3) Exhibit a command of knowledge in the student's area of study. The student assessments are aggregated annually and reported through the University of Georgia Office of Instruction for formal assessment as required by the University of Georgia Academic Policy 01.06.001 and 01.06.003.

## 7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
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- Entomology
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  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
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  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Doctor of Philosophy in Animal and Dairy Sciences program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The PhD program in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences on the Tifton Campus is accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/02/2025

**Department/Division:** Crop and Soil Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Griffin, Athens, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** Soil Science; Weed Science; Sustainable Agriculture

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. Seven Ph.D.-level faculty advise graduate students at Griffin, working with a total of 12 graduate students, six of whom are in the Crop and Soil Science (M.S.) degree. The department expects an increase in the number of students in the M.S. program at Griffin in the future as two of the seven faculty members recently started their positions and are still recruiting students into their programs. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining a resident in Griffin. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens and Tifton Campuses.

1. Transcripts in English
2. Letter of Intent (Statement of Purpose)
3. 3 Letters of Reference
4. GPA > 3.0 for M.S. students

## 3. Program Content

Each student will submit to the graduate coordinator, through his/her major professor, a program of study(list of proposed courses) by the end of the first semester of residence. The program of study must then be submitted to the Graduate School. A thesis proposal approved by the advisory committee must be

submitted to the graduate coordinator by the end of the second semester. These items become a permanent part of the student's departmental file and record. The thesis proposal ensures an early start on a research project suitable for a thesis.

Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) Program of Study:

1. Minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework
2. Includes 3 hours of CRSS 7300, Master's Thesis
3. Includes maximum of 6 hours of CRSS 7000, Master's Research
4. Twelve of the remaining 21 hours must be graduate-level only
5. Includes 1 hour of CRSS 8100, Advanced Crop and Soil Science Seminar
6. Includes at least one graduate statistics course
7. Must be completed within a six-year timeframe

#### **4. Student Advising**

The Crop & Soil Sciences department requires graduate students to meet with their major professor(s) each semester before registering for classes to clear an advising hold and plan their coursework. Students are responsible for initiating appointments and preparing for them by reviewing their academic plans and course offerings.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Tifton Campuses.

#### **6. Program Management**

Each of the areas of emphasis under the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree are managed as outlined in the departmental guidelines. Primary contacts include the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS is chair of the Graduate Committee, which includes representatives from all three campuses where the degree is offered (Athens, Griffin and Tifton). This group reviews graduate student applications, votes on acceptance, considers and votes on graduate awards, and provides oversight of the entire graduate degree program. All students are assigned to a major professor at the time of acceptance and are expected to have an approved study plan and research proposal at the end of their first year. All processes are facilitated by the student with the support of a staff-level program coordinator who tracks progress. Annual evaluation includes a self-assessment carried out by the student and an assessment provided by the major professor. All courses required for the program and areas of emphasis are currently offered. Learning outcomes for the programs are assessed once a year. Proposed changes to the curriculum are brought to the Graduate Committee for discussion, revised as needed, and then sent to the Department Head, who holds a vote of the entire faculty.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>

- Laboratories: The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program
  - The Georgia Envirotron
  - University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program at levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences on the Griffin, Tifton and Athens campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/02/2025

**Department/Division:** Crop & Soil Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Griffin, and Athens; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** Soil Science; Weed Science; Sustainable Agriculture

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. The number of Crop and Soil Sciences faculty in Tifton is currently 22, which is more than adequate to maintain a significant pool of students for the M.S. degree program on the Tifton campus. Currently the Tifton campus is home to about half of the total number of graduate students in the Crop and Soil Science (M.S.) program, 25 out of 51 students. The faculty expect this number to grow by approximately 25% in the future, as four of the Tifton faculty were hired less than three years ago and are still actively building their programs. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining a resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on Athens and Griffin Campuses.

1. Transcripts in English
2. Letter of Intent (Statement of Purpose)
3. 3 Letters of Reference
4. GPA > 3.0 for M.S. students

## 3. Program Content

Each student will submit to the graduate coordinator, through his/her major professor, a program of study (list of proposed courses) by the end of the first semester of residence. The program of study must then be

submitted to the Graduate School. A thesis proposal approved by the advisory committee must be submitted to the graduate coordinator by the end of the second semester. These items become a permanent part of the student's departmental file and record. The thesis proposal ensures an early start on a research project suitable for a thesis.

Program of Study:

1. Minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework
2. Includes 3 hours of CRSS 7300, Master's Thesis
3. Includes maximum of 6 hours of CRSS 7000, Master's Research
4. Twelve of the remaining 21 hours must be graduate level only
5. Includes 1 hour of CRSS 8100, Advanced Crop and Soil Science Seminar
6. Includes at least one graduate statistics course
7. Must be completed within a six-year timeframe

#### **4. Student Advising**

The Crop & Soil Sciences department requires graduate students to meet with their major professor(s) each semester before registering for classes to clear an advising hold and plan their coursework. Students are responsible for initiating appointments and preparing for them by reviewing their academic plans and course offerings.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Griffin Campuses.

#### **6. Program Management**

Each of the areas of emphasis under the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree are managed as outlined in the departmental guidelines. Primary contacts include the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS is chair of the Graduate Committee, which includes representatives from all three campuses where the degree is offered (Athens, Griffin and Tifton). This group reviews graduate student applications, votes on acceptance, considers and votes on graduate awards, and provides oversight of the entire graduate degree program. All students are assigned to a major professor at the time of acceptance and are expected to have an approved study plan and research proposal at the end of their first year. All processes are facilitated by the student with the support of a staff level program coordinator who tracks progress. Annual evaluation includes a self-assessment carried out by the student and an assessment provided by the major professor. All courses required for the program and areas of emphasis are currently offered. Learning outcomes for the programs are assessed once a year. Proposed changes to the curriculum are brought to the Graduate Committee for discussion, revised as needed, and then sent to the Department Head, who holds a vote of the entire faculty.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.

- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S.) degree program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens and Griffin Campuses.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences on the Griffin, Tifton, and Athens campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/02/2025

**Department/Division:** Crop & Soil Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Griffin, Tifton, Athens; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** Soil Science; Weed Science

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Griffin Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. The Crop and Soil Sciences faculty located in Griffin are actively training graduate students and currently advise a total of six Ph.D. students. The faculty expect the number of students enrolled in the Ph.D. program to increase given that two of the seven faculty located there were hired within the last year and are just starting to build their programs and recruit students.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens and Tifton Campuses.

1. Transcripts in English
2. Letter of Intent (Statement of Purpose)
2. 3 Letters of Reference
3. GPA > 3.5 for Ph.D. students

## 3. Program Content

Students submit a preliminary program of study to the Graduate Coordinator through their major professor by the end of the second semester of residence. This program of study must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator. A dissertation proposal must be presented by the end of the second semester. The program of study and dissertation proposal will be approved by the Advisory Committee. The final plan

of study must be submitted online via gradstatus by the end of second semester, with any changes in courses or committee made before admission to candidacy.

Program of Study:

1. Minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework
2. Includes 3 hours of CRSS 9300, Doctoral Dissertation
3. Includes maximum of 6 hours of CRSS 9000, Doctoral Research
4. Includes a guided teaching experience (CRSS 9990, Supervised Teaching Practicum in Crop and Soil Sciences, or an education course)
5. Sixteen of the remaining 21 hours must be upper-level graduate courses (8000-level or higher)
6. Includes 1 hour of CRSS 8100, Advanced Crop and Soil Science Seminar
7. Includes at least one graduate statistics course
8. Must be completed within a six-year timeframe

#### **4. Student Advising**

The Crop & Soil Sciences department requires graduate students to meet with their major professor(s) each semester before registering for classes to clear an advising hold and plan their coursework. Students are responsible for initiating appointments and preparing for them by reviewing their academic plans and course offerings.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Tifton Campuses.

#### **6. Program Management**

Each of the areas of emphasis under the Crop and Soil Sciences Ph.D. degree are managed as outlined in the departmental guidelines. Primary contacts include the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS is chair of the Graduate Committee, which includes representatives from all three campuses where the degree is offered (Athens, Griffin and Tifton). This group reviews graduate student applications, votes on acceptance, considers and votes on graduate awards, and provides oversight of the entire graduate degree program. All students are assigned to a major professor at the time of acceptance and are expected to have an approved study plan and research proposal at the end of their first year. All processes are facilitated by the student with the support of a staff-level program coordinator who tracks progress. Annual evaluation includes a self-assessment carried out by the student and an assessment provided by the major professor. All courses required for the program and areas of emphasis are currently offered. Learning outcomes for the programs are assessed once a year. Proposed changes to the curriculum are brought to the Graduate Committee for discussion, revised as needed, and then sent to the Department Head, who holds a vote of the entire faculty.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the

library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>

- Laboratories: The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program
  - The Georgia Envirotron
  - University of Georgia Weather Network
- Other UGA Colleges with Undergrad Degrees on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Terry College of Business—General Business
  - Franklin College—Microbiology; Interdisciplinary Studies

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences on the Griffin, Tifton, and Athens campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/02/2025

**Department/Division:** Crop & Soil Sciences

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Griffin, Athens; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** Soil Science; Weed Science

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining a resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. A significant number (20) of Crop and Soil Sciences faculty are located in Tifton and these faculty are actively engaged in graduate education and training. Currently there are 17 Ph.D. students enrolled in Tifton. The faculty expect the number to grow as four of the 20 faculty were hired in the last four years and are still developing and growing their programs.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on Athens and Griffin Campuses.

1. Transcripts in English
2. Letter of Intent (Statement of Purpose)
3. 3 Letters of Reference
4. GPA > 3.5 for Ph.D. students

## 3. Program Content

Students submit a preliminary program of study to the Graduate Coordinator through their major professor by the end of the second semester of residence. This program of study must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator. A dissertation proposal must be presented by the end of the second semester. The program of study and dissertation proposal will be

approved by the Advisory Committee. The final plan of study must be submitted online via gradstatus by the end of second semester, with any changes in courses or committee made before admission to candidacy.

Program of Study:

1. Minimum of 30 hours of graduate coursework
2. Includes 3 hours of CRSS 9300, Doctoral Dissertation
3. Includes maximum of 6 hours of CRSS 9000, Doctoral Research
4. Includes a guided teaching experience (CRSS 9990, Supervised Teaching Practicum in Crop and Soil Sciences, or an education course)
5. Sixteen of the remaining 21 hours must be upper-level graduate courses (8000-level or higher)
6. Includes 1 hour of CRSS 8100, Advanced Crop and Soil Science Seminar (graduate seminar)
7. Includes at least one graduate statistics course
8. Must be completed within a six-year timeframe

#### **4. Student Advising**

The Crop & Soil Sciences department requires graduate students to meet with their major professor(s) each semester before registering for classes to clear an advising hold and plan their coursework. Students are responsible for initiating appointments and preparing for them by reviewing their academic plans and course offerings.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Griffin Campuses.

#### **6. Program Management**

Each of the areas of emphasis under the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree are managed as outlined in the departmental guidelines. Primary contacts include the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS is chair of the Graduate Committee, which includes representatives from all three campuses where the degree is offered (Athens, Griffin and Tifton). This group reviews graduate student applications, votes on acceptance, considers and votes on graduate awards, and provides oversight of the entire graduate degree program. All students are assigned to a major professor at the time of acceptance and are expected to have an approved study plan and research proposal at the end of their first year. All processes are facilitated by the student with the support of a staff-level program coordinator who tracks progress. Annual evaluation includes a self-assessment carried out by the student and an assessment provided by the major professor. All courses required for the program and areas of emphasis are currently offered. Learning outcomes for the programs are assessed once a year. Proposed changes to the curriculum are brought to the Graduate Committee for discussion, revised as needed, and then sent to the Department Head, who holds a vote of the entire faculty.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: The existing library at the UGA Tifton Campus is closed. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.

- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Crop and Soil Sciences (Ph.D.) degree program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences on the Griffin, Tifton, and Athens campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 1, 2025

**Department/Division:** Entomology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Entomology (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Griffin, Tifton, and Athens; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Entomology (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Griffin Campus. During the past decade, approximately 20% of Entomology (M.S.) students have been mentored by departmental faculty based in Griffin, a total of 6-10 students annually. Students in this program can opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses, fulfill Teaching Assistant duties, or complete specialized aspects of their research. Importantly, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus can complete 100% of their coursework and all other program requirements while residing in Griffin. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Entomology (M.S.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must submit documentation needed for admission through the UGA graduate school application portal (transcripts, letters of recommendation, minimum GPA of 3.0). Each student must identify a major professor for admission to the Entomology graduate program. The major professor serves as the official advisor to the student and chair of the student's advisory committee. The major professor is the primary professional and research mentor. Students admitted to the graduate program are expected to have completed courses in biochemistry and genetics, as recorded on their undergraduate or graduate transcripts, or to take and pass equivalent courses at the undergraduate or graduate level during their graduate tenure. These deficiencies will be noted in the Letter of Admission from the Department that each student receives. Courses in microbiology, cellular or molecular biology may

be substituted for the biochemistry deficiency. Note that course deficiencies rectified by taking undergraduate courses at UGA will not count towards the hours required for the Graduate Program of Study, nor will the grades from these courses impact the graduate GPA. Course deficiencies rectified by graduate coursework do count toward the Program of Study and also impact the graduate GPA. Completion of deficiencies will be noted in the Annual Progress Report submitted by each student and included on the POS form. For most international students, official TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency exam scores are required.

See <https://grad.uga.edu/admissions/requirements/international-applications/english-language-proficiency-requirement/> for details and country-specific requirements.

### **3. Program Content**

Program requirements are identical for students completing the Entomology (M.S.) degree, regardless of campus location. All M.S. students must complete either ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy (5 hours), or ENTO 8250, Insect Physiology (3 hours), and one ENTO 8000-level reading/discussion course. Beyond these core requirements, students pursue thesis research and additional coursework at their primary campus location under the guidance of their major professor and advisory committee. The degree program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours.

All required coursework can be completed while resident in Griffin. However, many Griffin-based students opt to spend one or more semesters in Athens to take ENTO 8010-8010L and other courses that benefit from in-person instruction or to access specialized laboratory facilities and equipment available only on the Athens campus.

Students in the Entomology (M.S.) graduate program are required to submit a program of study to include, at minimum, information on the number of hours for degree and a breakdown of the required and elective courses. Students are also required to complete and defend a thesis prior to receiving a degree.

The full degree requirements for Entomology (M.S.) students are described in the graduate student handbook, pp. 16-23:

<https://ent.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/entomology/documents/Graduate%20Handbook%20APR23.pdf>

### **4. Student Advising**

Student advising is similar for students on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses. The advisory committee, along with the major professor, shares responsibility for monitoring graduate student progress and guiding the student toward the timely completion of their degree program. Each student must establish an advisory committee in consultation with the major professor. Once the committee has been established, students will complete the advisory committee form (G130) through Grad Slate (<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>). The form will be routed to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate School for approval. Key roles for the major professor and advisory committee include: frame and approve program of study; assist in developing a plan for research;

evaluate progress annually; review manuscripts and dissertation; attend oral presentation of research accomplished; and administer a final defense exam.

The M.S. committee must consist of two Graduate Program Faculty (GPF) members with the major professor serving as chair of the committee. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, including no more than one non-UGA faculty member (see details below). UGA employees holding the following ranks may serve on M.S. committees: assistant professor, associate professor, professor, academic professional, senior academic professional, public service assistant, public service associate, senior public service associate, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. Instructors and lecturers may not serve on advisory committees unless they have GPF status. Co-major professors (limited to two) may be appointed to an advisory committee provided both are GPF (and they may comprise two of the three required members of an advisory committee). Both co-major professors must sign all forms that requires the signature of an advisory committee chair. In addition to UGA committee members, a person having no official relationship with UGA may serve as a voting member on the advisory committee after nomination by the graduate coordinator and approval of the dean of the Graduate School. When nominating a non-affiliated person, the graduate coordinator must submit the nominee's current resume/CV with an advisory committee form and a letter addressed to the dean of the Graduate School explaining why the services of the non-affiliated person are requested. A nominee must have a terminal degree in their field and distinguished academic credentials in the field of study.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Entomology (M.S.) degree on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Tifton Campuses.

## **6. Program Management**

The Director of Graduate Studies, a member of the Entomology faculty, is responsible for the overall administration of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs, implementing curriculum and policy, coordinating funding, and otherwise guiding students through their academic programs. The DGS serves as the official liaison between Entomology and the Graduate School and is responsible for approving all documents and forms as students meet their degree requirements. The DGS serves on numerous committees that enhance graduate education.

The Graduate Program Assistant handles the day-to-day administration of the Entomology Graduate Program. The Graduate Program Assistant maintains student records and reports, conveys important information and reminders regularly, and is the first point of contact for procedural questions (e.g., forms, course registration).

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whole and is primarily engaged with policy issues, and from the student's major professor, who serves as the primary professional and research mentor.

Graduate Program Faculty (GPF). The Graduate School rules require that students' major professor(s) be a member of the GPF, which are elected by a vote of existing Entomology faculty. For co-advised students, one co-advisor must be a faculty member in Entomology (including courtesy appointments) who is also a member of the GPF. In general, tenure-track faculty at UGA have GPF status in Entomology can be sole advisors, while other faculty (e.g., adjuncts, lecturers) with GPF status in Entomology often choose to be co-advisors.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program

- Laboratory for Biometeorology
- Landscape Pest Management
- Master Gardener Program
- Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
- Research & Education Garden
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
- Statewide Variety Testing Program
- Structural Pest Management Program
- The Georgia Envirotron
- University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Entomology (M.S.) program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the M.S. program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Entomology on the Athens, Tifton, and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 1, 2025

**Department/Division:** Entomology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Entomology (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Griffin, and Athens; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Entomology (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. During the past decade, approximately one-third of Entomology (M.S.) students have been mentored by departmental faculty based in Tifton, a total of 7-12 students annually. Students in this program can opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses, fulfill Teaching Assistant duties, or complete specialized aspects of their research. Importantly, however, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus can complete 100% of their coursework and all other program requirements while resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Entomology (M.S.) degree at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must submit documentation needed for admission through the UGA graduate school application portal (transcripts, letters of recommendation, minimum GPA of 3.0). Each student must identify a major professor for admission to the Entomology Graduate Program. The major professor serves as the official advisor to the student and chair of the student's advisory committee. The major professor is the primary professional and research mentor. Students admitted to the graduate program are expected to have completed courses in biochemistry and genetics, as recorded on their undergraduate or graduate transcripts, or to take and pass equivalent courses at the undergraduate or graduate level during their graduate tenure. These deficiencies will be noted in the Letter of Admission from the Department that each student receives. Courses in microbiology, cellular or molecular biology may be substituted for the biochemistry deficiency. Note that course deficiencies rectified by taking

undergraduate courses at UGA will not count towards the hours required for the Graduate Program of Study, nor will the grades from these courses impact the graduate GPA. Course deficiencies rectified by graduate coursework do count toward the Program of Study and also impact the graduate GPA. Completion of deficiencies will be noted in the Annual Progress Report submitted by each student and included on the POS form. For most international students, official TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency exam scores are required.

See <https://grad.uga.edu/admissions/requirements/international-applications/english-language-proficiency-requirement/> for details and country-specific requirements.

### **3. Program Content**

Program requirements are identical for students completing the Entomology (M.S.) degree regardless of campus location. All M.S. students must complete either ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy (5 hours), or ENTO 8250, Insect Physiology (3 hours), and one ENTO 8000-level reading/discussion course. Beyond these core requirements, students pursue thesis research and additional coursework at their primary campus location under the guidance of their major professor and advisory committee. The degree program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours.

All required coursework can be completed while resident in Tifton. However, many Tifton-based students opt to spend one or more semesters in Athens to take ENTO 8010-8010L and other courses that benefit from in-person instruction or to access specialized laboratory facilities and equipment available only on the Athens campus.

Students in the Entomology (M.S.) graduate program are required to submit a program of study to include, at minimum, information on the number of hours for degree and a breakdown of the required and elective courses. Students are also required to complete and defend a thesis prior to receiving a degree.

Full degree requirements for Entomology (M.S.) students are described in the graduate student handbook, pp. 16-23:

<https://ent.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/entomology/documents/Graduate%20Handbook%20APR23.pdf>

### **4. Student Advising**

Student advising is similar for students on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses. The advisory committee, along with the major professor, shares responsibility for monitoring graduate student progress and guiding the student toward the timely completion of their degree program. Each student must establish an advisory committee in consultation with the major professor. Once the committee has been established, complete the advisory committee form (G130) through Grad Slate <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>. The form will be routed to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate School for approval. Key roles for the major professor and advisory committee include: frame and approve program of study; assist in developing a plan for research;

evaluate progress annually; review manuscripts and dissertation; attend oral presentation of research accomplished; and administer a final defense exam.

The M.S. committee must consist of two Graduate Program Faculty (GPF) members with the major professor serving as chair of the committee. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, including no more than one non-UGA faculty member (see details below). UGA employees holding the following ranks may serve on M.S. committees: assistant professor, associate professor, professor, academic professional, senior academic professional, public service assistant, public service associate, senior public service associate, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. Instructors and lecturers may not serve on advisory committees unless they have GPF status. Co-major professors (limited to two) may be appointed to an advisory committee provided both are GPF (and they may comprise two of the three required members of an advisory committee). Both co-major professors must sign all forms that requires the signature of an advisory committee chair. In addition to UGA committee members, a person having no official relationship with UGA may serve as a voting member on the advisory committee after nomination by the graduate coordinator and approval of the dean of the Graduate School. When nominating a non-affiliated person, the graduate coordinator must submit the nominee's current resume/CV with an advisory committee form and a letter addressed to the dean of the Graduate School explaining why the services of the non-affiliated person are requested. A nominee must have a terminal degree in their field and distinguished academic credentials in the field of study.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Entomology (M.S.) degree on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Griffin Campuses.

## **6. Program Management**

The Director of Graduate Studies, a member of the Entomology faculty, is responsible for the overall administration of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs, implementing curriculum and policy, coordinating funding, and otherwise guiding students through their academic programs. The DGS serves as the official liaison between Entomology and the Graduate School and is responsible for approving all documents and forms as students meet their degree requirements. The DGS serves on numerous committees that enhance graduate education.

The Graduate Program Assistant handles the day-to-day administration of the Entomology Graduate Program. The Graduate Program Assistant maintains student records and reports, conveys important information and reminders regularly, and is your first point of contact for procedural questions (e.g., forms, course registration).

The Graduate Program Advisor, a department faculty member, offers independent advice and support to graduate students. This includes concerns about progress in the degree program, as well as physical and mental health, and directing students to appropriate UGA support services when needed. This role differs from the Graduate Coordinator, who oversees the program as a

whole and is primarily engaged with policy issues, and from the student's major professor, who serves as the primary professional and research mentor.

Graduate Program Faculty (GPF). The Graduate School rules require that students' major professor (s) be a member of the GPF, which are elected by a vote of existing Entomology faculty. For co-advised students, one co-advisor must be a faculty member in Entomology (including courtesy appointments) who is also a member of the GPF. In general, tenure-track faculty at UGA have GPF status in Entomology can be sole advisors, while other faculty (e.g., adjuncts, lecturers) with GPF status in Entomology often choose to be co-advisors.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Tifton Campus is closed. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- **Laboratories:** The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus. <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program

- UGA Cotton Breeding Program
- Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
- Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
- UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
- Centennial Garden
- Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Entomology (M.S.) program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the M.S. program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Entomology on the Athens, Tifton, and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 1, 2025

**Department/Division:** Entomology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Entomology (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Griffin, Tifton, and Athens; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Entomology (Ph.D.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Griffin Campus. During the past decade, approximately 25% of Entomology (Ph.D.) students have been mentored by departmental faculty based in Griffin, for a total of 7-12 students annually. Students in this program can opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses, fulfill Teaching Assistant duties, or complete specialized aspects of their research. Importantly, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus can complete most (up to 83%) of their course work and all other program requirements while resident in Griffin. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Entomology (Ph.D.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must submit documentation needed for admission through the UGA graduate school application portal (transcripts, letters of recommendation, minimum GPA of 3.0). Each student must identify a major professor for admission to the Entomology Graduate Program. The major professor serves as the official advisor to the student and chair of the student's advisory committee. The major professor is the primary professional and research mentor. Students admitted to the graduate program are expected to have completed courses in biochemistry and genetics, as recorded on their undergraduate or graduate transcripts, or to take and pass equivalent courses at the undergraduate or graduate level during their graduate tenure. These deficiencies will be noted in the Letter of Admission from the

Department that each student receives. Courses in microbiology, cellular or molecular biology may be substituted for the biochemistry deficiency. Note that course deficiencies rectified by taking undergraduate courses at UGA will not count towards the hours required for the Graduate Program of Study, nor will the grades from these courses impact the graduate GPA. Course deficiencies rectified by graduate coursework do count toward the Program of Study and also impact the graduate GPA. Completion of deficiencies will be noted in the Annual Progress Report submitted by each student and included on the POS form. For most international students, official TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency exam scores are required.

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### **3. Program Content**

Program requirements are identical for students completing the Entomology (Ph.D.) degree regardless of campus location. All Ph.D. students must complete ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy (5 hours); ENTO 8250, Insect Physiology (3 hours); and two ENTO 8000-level reading/discussion courses. Three of these four required courses are offered online; however, ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy, is taught in person at the Athens campus. Additionally, all Ph.D. students must complete a pedagogy course (e.g., GRSC 7770) and serve as a Teaching Assistant for one semester. Beyond these core requirements, students pursue dissertation research and additional coursework at their primary campus location under the guidance of their major professor and advisory committee.

Because ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy, must be taken in Athens and most TA opportunities are concentrated at the Athens campus, Griffin-based students typically spend one to two semesters in Athens to fulfill these requirements before returning to Griffin for the remainder of their degree program.

Students in the Entomology (Ph.D.) graduate program are required to submit a program of study by third semester of residency, to include, at minimum, information on the number of hours for degree and a breakdown of the required and elective courses. Students are also required to complete a written and oral comprehensive exam, and to draft and defend a thesis prospectus by the end of their third year of study.

Full Degree requirements for Entomology (Ph.D.) students are described in the graduate student handbook, pp. 16-23:

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The doctoral committee must consist of three Graduate Program Faculty members with the major professor serving as chair of the committee. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, but no more than one non-UGA faculty member (see details below). If the committee has more than three members, then greater than 50% must be GPF. UGA employees holding the following ranks may serve on doctoral committees: assistant professor, associate professor, professor, academic professional, senior academic professional, public service assistant, public service associate, senior public service associate, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. Instructors and lecturers may not serve on advisory committees unless they have GPF status. Co-major professors (limited to two) may be appointed to an advisory committee provided both are GPF (and they may comprise two of the three required members of an advisory committee). Both co-major professors must sign all forms that requires the signature of an advisory committee chair. In addition to UGA committee members, a person having no official relationship with UGA may serve as a voting member on the advisory committee after nomination by the graduate coordinator and approval of the dean of the Graduate School. When nominating a non-affiliated person, the graduate coordinator must submit the nominee's current resume/CV with an advisory committee form and a letter addressed to the dean of the Graduate School explaining why the services of the non-affiliated person are requested. A nominee must have a terminal degree in their field and distinguished academic credentials in the field of study.

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  - Entomology
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  - Horticulture
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  - Research & Education Garden
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## **8. Budget**

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## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the Ph.D. program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Entomology on the Athens, Tifton, and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 1, 2025

**Department/Division:** Entomology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Entomology (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Tifton, Griffin, Athens; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Entomology (Ph.D.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. During the past decade, approximately 20% of Entomology Ph.D. students have been mentored by departmental faculty based in Tifton, for a total of 5-8 students annually. Students in this program can opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses, fulfill Teaching Assistant duties, or complete specialized aspects of their research. Importantly, however, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus can complete most (up to 83%) of their coursework and all other program requirements while resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

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rectified by taking undergraduate courses at UGA will not count towards the hours required for the Graduate Program of Study, nor will the grades from these courses impact the graduate GPA. Course deficiencies rectified by graduate coursework do count toward the Program of Study and also impact the graduate GPA. Completion of deficiencies will be noted in the Annual Progress Report submitted by each student and included on the POS form. For most international students, official TOEFL or IELTS English proficiency exam scores are required.

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Because ENTO 8010-8010L, Insect Taxonomy, must be taken in Athens and most TA opportunities are concentrated at the Athens campus, Tifton-based students typically spend one to two semesters in Athens to fulfill these requirements before returning to Tifton for the remainder of their degree program.

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### **4. Student Advising**

Student advising is similar for students on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses. The advisory committee, along with the major professor, shares responsibility for monitoring graduate student progress and guiding the student toward the timely completion of their degree program. Each student must establish an advisory committee in consultation with the major professor. Once the committee

has been established, complete the advisory committee form (G130) through Grad Slate (<https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/forms/>). The form will be routed to the Graduate Coordinator and Graduate School for approval. Key roles for the major professor and advisory committee include: frame and approve program of study; assist in developing a plan for research; evaluate progress annually; administer written and oral comprehensive exams; review manuscripts and dissertation; attend oral presentation of research accomplished; and administer a final defense exam.

The doctoral committee must consist of three Graduate Program Faculty members with the major professor serving as chair of the committee. Additional voting members may be appointed to the committee, but no more than one non-UGA faculty member (see details below). If the committee has more than three members, then greater than 50% must be GPF. UGA employees holding the following ranks may serve on doctoral committees: assistant professor, associate professor, professor, academic professional, senior academic professional, public service assistant, public service associate, senior public service associate, assistant research scientist, associate research scientist, and senior research scientist. Instructors and lecturers may not serve on advisory committees unless they have GPF status. Co-major professors (limited to two) may be appointed to an advisory committee provided both are GPF (and they may comprise two of the three required members of an advisory committee). Both co-major professors must sign all forms that requires the signature of an advisory committee chair. In addition to UGA committee members, a person having no official relationship with UGA may serve as a voting member on the advisory committee after nomination by the graduate coordinator and approval of the dean of the Graduate School. When nominating a non-affiliated person, the graduate coordinator must submit the nominee's current resume/CV with an advisory committee form and a letter addressed to the dean of the Graduate School explaining why the services of the non-affiliated person are requested. A nominee must have a terminal degree in their field and distinguished academic credentials in the field of study.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Entomology (Ph.D.) degree on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens and Griffin Campuses.

## **6. Program Management**

The Director of Graduate Studies, a member of the Entomology faculty, is responsible for the overall administration of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs, implementing curriculum and policy, coordinating funding, and otherwise guiding students through their academic programs. The DGS serves as the official liaison between Entomology and the Graduate School and is responsible for approving all documents and forms as students meet their degree requirements. The DGS serves on numerous committees that enhance graduate education.

The Graduate Program Assistant handles the day-to-day administration of the Entomology Graduate Program. The Graduate Program Assistant maintains student records and reports, conveys important information and reminders regularly, and is your first point of contact for procedural questions (e.g., forms, course registration).

The Graduate Program Advisor, a department faculty member, offers independent advice and support to graduate students. This includes concerns about progress in the degree program, as well as physical and mental health, and directing students to appropriate UGA support services when needed. This role differs from the Graduate Coordinator, who oversees the program as a whole and is primarily engaged with policy issues, and from your major professor, who serves as the primary professional and research mentor.

Graduate Program Faculty (GPF). The Graduate School rules require that students' major professor (s) be a member of the GPF, which are elected by a vote of existing Entomology faculty. For co-advised students, one co-advisor must be a faculty member in Entomology (including courtesy appointments) who is also a member of the GPF. In general, tenure-track faculty at UGA have GPF status in Entomology can be sole advisors, while other faculty (e.g., adjuncts, lecturers) with GPF status in Entomology often choose to be co-advisors.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Tifton Campus is closed. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- **Laboratories:** The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus. <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:**

- UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
- UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
- UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
- UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
- UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
- UGA Cotton Breeding Program
- Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
- Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
- UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
- Centennial Garden
- Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Entomology (Ph.D.) program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students in the Ph.D. program at the extended campus do not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Entomology on the Athens, Tifton, and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** October 7, 2025

**Department/Division:** Food Science and Technology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Food Science (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the Master of Science in Food Science degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. Students under the guidance of a resident Griffin faculty member typically complete the required coursework while residing in Athens for the first one or two semesters before moving to the UGA Griffin Campus to complete the remaining >50% of their program. This process is determined by the faculty in consultation with their student and the Director of Graduate Studies to create the best program of study for each student. There are approximately 22 students currently in the Food Science graduate program on the Griffin campus. This number is anticipated to increase as two additional faculty members have recently been hired and will be seeking graduate student assistants as they establish their labs in Griffin. In order to accurately track student residence while they are in the degree program, ensure that they are assessed student fees appropriate for campus of residence, and better manage their safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Master of Science in Food Science at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Students with a relevant academic background will complete the online UGA Graduate School Application. The GRE is now optional for M.S./Ph.D. applicants. In addition to the online application, applicants should submit the following:

- Copy of unofficial transcripts from previous institutions
- Three official letters of recommendation (sent by references) online through the Graduate application system. The three letters usually come from former or current professors and professional supervisors.
- A 1-2 page statement of purpose and an updated resume uploaded to the application system.
- An additional writing sample - the writing sample should include 300 words written in complete sentences with a good flow of English. It should reflect persistence, problem solving skills, and motivation, and elaborate on the following: (1) A project/task that the student worked during their

career from the initial stages to completion, and (2) An example of a challenge or problem the student faced, describing the process of finding a solution and how the solution was implemented.

- Applications should be submitted by the deadlines outlined on the UGA Graduate School website.

### **3. Program Content**

Each student in the Master of Science in Food Science graduate program might have different programs of study based on their undergraduate degree program and previously completed requirements. Students are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours (24 hours of coursework, a minimum of 12 hours of which must be courses open to graduate students only, and 6 hours of research). Coursework must include, if not completed previously, Food Processing/Food Engineering, Food Microbiology, Food Chemistry, Nutritional Quality, and Biochemistry.

Also required is:

- 1 hour of FDST 8500, Food Science Seminar
- Possible courses include: FDST(NUTR) 8150, Food and Nutritional Biochemistry; BCMB 6000, General Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; BCMB 6010, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I; STAT 6315, Statistical Methods for Researchers; STAT 8200, Design of Experiments for Research Workers; or any 6000- or 8000-level specialty courses.
- The remainder of the 30 hours must be completed through 6 hours of research – a minimum of 3 hours FDST 7000, Master's Research, and 3 hours of FDST 7300, Master's Thesis.

Online courses may be permitted for a student's program of study if approved by the major professor and advisory committee.

### **4. Student Advising**

Students are advised on coursework by consulting with their major professors/faculty advisors. The student should meet with their major professor prior to the start of each semester to discuss the coursework plan for the coming semester(s). After the meeting, faculty advisors will clear the academic advisement hold in Athena to permit the students to register. If the student joins the M.S. – FST program without a faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies will serve as a temporary advisor, recommending general required courses and clearing the academic advisement holds for the student until a faculty advisor is found.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Master of Science in Food Science on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The food science graduate program is managed by a faculty member who serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the department with support from a staff member who serves as the Graduate Program Administrator. These two support positions provide all administrative and student support for

the graduate programs. The Director of Graduate Studies leads the graduate affairs committee comprised of four additional members of the graduate faculty. The committee reviews applications and makes all recommendations for accepting new students, as well as reviews or recommends new or modified graduate program policies for food science and presents them to the FST faculty for vote as required. The food science graduate program is assessed through student evaluations completed by major professors each year, and through graduate program assessment measures which use prospectus rubrics, final defense rubrics, and exit surveys completed by the student at the end of their time in the program. The program should be completed between two and two and a half years. The food science graduate program administrators refer to the UGA Graduate School resources and policies when clarification is needed.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program

- Laboratory for Biometeorology
- Landscape Pest Management
- Master Gardener Program
- Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
- Research & Education Garden
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
- Statewide Variety Testing Program
- Structural Pest Management Program
- The Georgia Envirotron
- University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Master of Science in Food Science program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students on the Griffin Campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. programs in the Department of Food Science and Technology on the Athens and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## **PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE**

**Date:** October 7, 2025

**Department/Division:** Food Science and Technology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Food Science (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Griffin, Athens

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### **1. Assessment**

For several years, graduate students seeking the Doctorate of Philosophy in Food Science have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. Students under the guidance of a resident Griffin faculty member typically complete the required coursework while residing in Athens for the first one or two semesters before moving to the UGA Griffin Campus to complete the remaining >50% of their program. This process is determined by the faculty in consultation with their student and the Director of Graduate Studies to create the best program of study for each student. There are approximately 22 students currently in the Food Science graduate program on the Griffin campus. This number is anticipated to increase as two additional faculty members have recently been hired and will be seeking graduate student research assistants as they establish their labs in Griffin. In order to accurately track student residence while they are in the degree program, ensure that they are assessed student fees appropriate for campus of residence, and better manage their safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### **2. Admission Requirements**

The admission requirements for the Doctorate of Philosophy in Food Science at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Students with a relevant academic background will complete the online UGA Graduate School Application. The GRE is now optional for M.S./Ph.D. applicants. In addition to the online application, applicants should submit the following:

- Copy of unofficial transcripts from previous institutions
- Three official letters of recommendation (sent by references) online through the Graduate application system. The three letters usually come from former or current professors and professional supervisors.
- A 1-2 page statement of purpose and an updated resume uploaded to the application system.
- An additional writing sample - the writing sample should include 300 words written in complete sentences with a good flow of English. It should reflect your persistence, problem solving skills, and motivation, and elaborate on the following: (1) A project/task that the student worked on during their

career from the initial stages to completion, and (2) An example of a challenge or problem the student faced, describing the process of finding a solution and how the solution was implemented.

- Applications should be submitted by the deadlines outlined on the UGA Graduate School website.

### **3. Program Content**

The Doctorate of Philosophy in Food Science requires a minimum of 60 credit hours post-baccalaureate or M.S. degree plus 30 credit hours. If the student has the M.S. degree, 20 hours of coursework must include, if not completed previously, Food Processing/Engineering, Food Microbiology, Food Chemistry, Nutritional Quality, and Biochemistry.

Additional required coursework includes:

- 1 hour of FDST 8500, Food Science Seminar;
- Two statistics courses (6 hours total);
- A minimum of 16 hours of 8000- or 9000-level courses are required.
- Of the total 30 credit hours required, 16 hours of research should be included, or M.S. degree plus 10 hours research – 5 hours of FDST 9000, Doctoral Research, and 5 hours of FDST 9300, Doctoral Dissertation.

Additional possible courses include FDST(NUTR) 8150, Food and Nutritional Biochemistry; BCMB 6000, General Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; BCMB 6010, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology I; STAT 6315, Statistical Methods for Researchers; STAT 8200, Design of Experiments for Research Workers; or any 6000- or 8000-level specialty courses.

Online courses may be permitted for a student's program of study if approved by the major professor and advisory committee.

### **4. Student Advising**

Students are advised on coursework by consulting with their major professors/faculty advisors. The student should meet with their major professor prior to the start of each semester to discuss the coursework plan for the coming semester(s). After the meeting, faculty advisors will clear the academic advisement hold in Athena to permit the students to register. If the student joins the Ph.D. – FST program without a faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies will serve as a temporary advisor, recommending general required courses and clearing the academic advisement holds for the student until a faculty advisor is found.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Doctorate of Philosophy in Food Science on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The Food Science Ph.D. program is managed by a faculty member who serves as the Director of Graduate Studies for the department with support from a staff member who serves as the Graduate Program Administrator. These two support positions provide all administrative and student support for the

graduate programs. The Director of Graduate Studies leads the graduate affairs committee comprised of four additional members of the graduate faculty. The committee reviews applications and makes all recommendations for accepting new students, as well as reviews or recommends new or modified graduate program policies for food science and presents them to the FST faculty for vote as required. The food science graduate program is assessed through student evaluations completed by major professors each year, and through graduate program assessment measures which use prospectus rubrics, final defense rubrics, and exit surveys completed by the student at the end of their time in the program. The program should be completed between two and two and a half years. The food science graduate program administrators refer to the UGA Graduate School resources and policies when clarification is needed.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program

- Laboratory for Biometeorology
- Landscape Pest Management
- Master Gardener Program
- Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
- Research & Education Garden
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
- Statewide Variety Testing Program
- Structural Pest Management Program
- The Georgia Envirotron
- University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Doctorate of Philosophy in Food Science program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students on the Griffin Campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The Ph.D. programs in the Department of Food Science and Technology on the Athens and Griffin campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/15/2025

**Department/Division:** Horticulture

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Horticulture (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the Horticulture (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. The expected average number of Horticulture (M.S.) students on the Griffin campus is eight.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Horticulture (M.S.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended are part of the online application. Official transcripts are not required until applicants have been admitted. The standard GPA required for entry into the UGA Graduate School is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A Statement of Purpose, a minimum of three Letters of Recommendation, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) are also required. International students will need to provide additional information (English proficiency, Certificate of Finance, etc.). More info can be found online at [grad.uga.edu](http://grad.uga.edu).

### 3. Program Content

Each student must complete a program of study that constitutes a logical whole. The program of study must consist of at least 30 credit hours of graduate credit. Of the 30-hour total, at least 21 credit hours must be in coursework with at least 12 credit hours in courses open only to graduate students. These hours cannot be satisfied by transfer credit, master's research, or independent study courses. More specific course requirements can be found in the appendix.

### 4. Student Advising

An advisory committee for each graduate student must be appointed before the end of the first semester of residency. The advisory committee must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and is appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The advisory committee will consist of the Major Professor (who will act as chairperson) and two additional members. The Major Professor and at least one other committee person must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Georgia. At least one member of the committee must reside outside of the Department of Horticulture.

The Advisory Committee is required to hold a meeting before the end of the first year of residency. Other functions of the committee include planning and approving the Program of Study, reading and approving the thesis, and administering the final examination.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Horticulture (M.S.) degree on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus. The minimum residency requirement is one academic year (two consecutive semesters of full-time study).

## **6. Program Management**

The structure and progress of the students will be managed at the Athens campus. The financials for the students will be managed by the business office at the Griffin campus. This program will be administered by faculty and staff in the Department of Horticulture. Day-to-day services will be provided by each student's faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the UGA Graduate School office. Courses will be taught by program faculty. Admissions will be managed by the UGA Graduate School and the Horticulture Director of Graduate Studies and accompanying committee. The program should be completed in four semesters but can be completed at an alternate pace, depending on approval from the students' graduate committee.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus. <https://griffin.uga.edu/programs/experimental-statistics/>
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics

- Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:
    - Center for Food Safety
    - Center for Urban Agriculture
    - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
  - CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:
    - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
    - Laboratory for Biometeorology
    - Landscape Pest Management
    - Master Gardener Program
    - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
    - Research & Education Garden
    - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
    - Statewide Variety Testing Program
    - Structural Pest Management Program
    - The Georgia Envirotron
    - University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Horticulture (M.S.) degree program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

No additional costs are associated with the program on the UGA Griffin Campus.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. programs in the Department of Horticulture on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

### **PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE**

**Date:** 10/9/2025

**Department/Division:** Horticulture

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Horticulture (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### **1. Assessment**

For several years, graduate students seeking the Horticulture (M.S.) degree have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. The expected number of Horticulture (M.S.) students on the Tifton campus is twelve.

### **2. Admission Requirements**

The admission requirements for the Horticulture (M.S.) degree at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended are part of the online application. Official transcripts are not required until applicants have been admitted. The standard GPA required for entry into the UGA Graduate School is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A Statement of Purpose, a minimum of three Letters of Recommendation, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) are also required. International students will need to provide additional information (English proficiency, Certificate of Finance, etc.). More info can be found online at [grad.uga.edu](http://grad.uga.edu).

### **3. Program Content**

Each student must complete a program of study that constitutes a logical whole. The program of study must consist of at least 30 credit hours of graduate credit. Of the 30-hour total, at least 21 credit hours must be in coursework with at least 12 credit hours in courses open only to graduate students. These hours cannot be satisfied by transfer credit, master's research, or independent study courses. More specific course requirements can be found in the appendix.

### **4. Student Advising**

An advisory committee for each graduate student must be appointed before the end of the first semester of residency. The advisory committee must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and is appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The advisory committee will consist of the Major Professor (who will act as chairperson) and two additional members. The Major Professor and at least one other committee person must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Georgia. At least one member of the committee must reside outside of the Department of Horticulture.

The Advisory Committee is required to hold a meeting before the end of the first year of residency. Other functions of the committee include planning and approving the Program of Study, reading and approving the thesis, and administering the final examination.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Horticulture (M.S.) degree on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus. The minimum residency requirement is one academic year (two consecutive semesters of full-time study).

## **6. Program Management**

The structure and progress of the students will be managed at the Athens campus. The financials for the students will be managed by the business office at the Tifton campus. This program will be administered by faculty and staff in the Department of Horticulture. Day-to-day services will be provided by each student's faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the UGA Graduate School office. Courses will be taught by program faculty. Admissions will be managed by the UGA Graduate School and the Horticulture Director of Graduate Studies and accompanying committee. The program should be completed in four semesters but can be completed at an alternate pace, depending on approval from the students' graduate committee.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- **Laboratories:** The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health

- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Horticulture (M.S.) degree program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

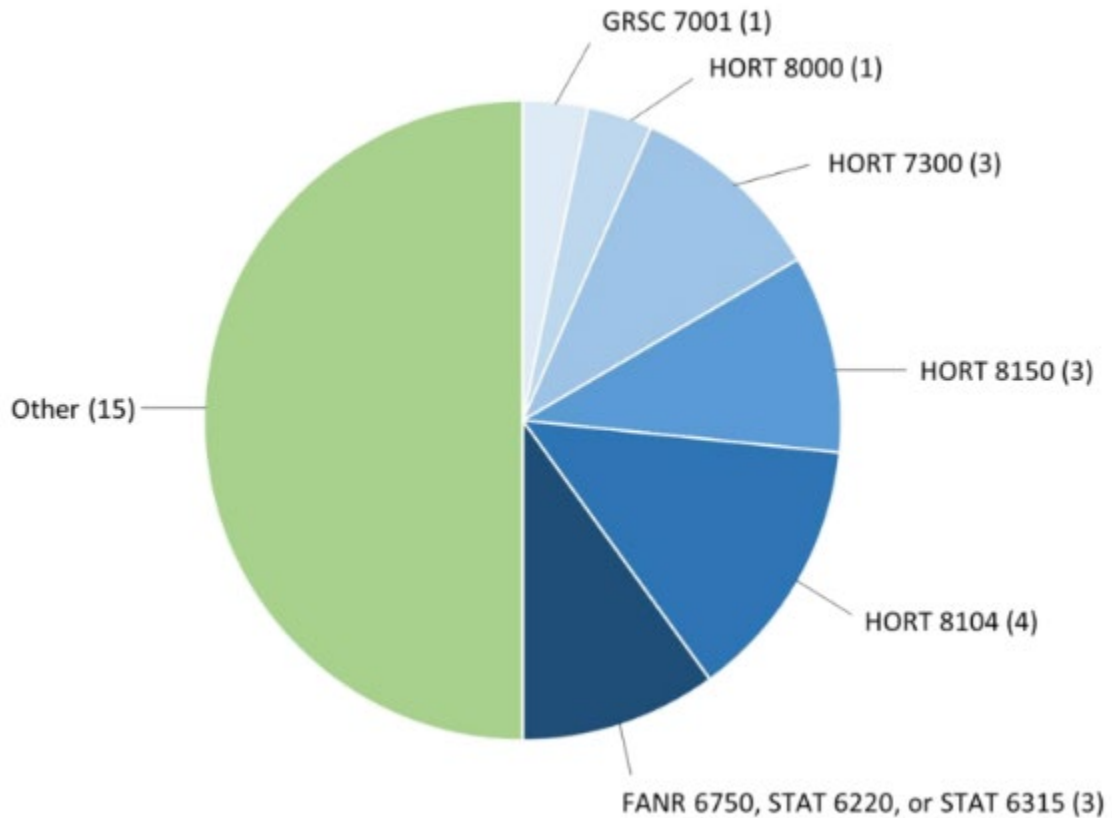
No additional costs are associated with the program on the UGA Tifton Campus.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. programs in the Department of Horticulture on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## Appendix:

Course requirements:



– 1 credit hour of HORT 8000, Horticultural Seminar. This course is offered during the spring semester and includes aspects of effective seminar presentation. Horticulture graduate students are allowed to take CRSS 8100 or CRSS(HORT) 8861 instead of HORT 8000 if HORT 8000 is not offered during that spring semester.

– 3 credit hours of HORT 7300, Master’s Thesis

– HORT 8150, Plant Growth and Development (3 hours)

– HORT 8104, Advanced Plant Physiology (4 hours) or a graduate level course in chemistry/biochemistry

– Graduate-level statistics (FANR 6750, STAT 6220, or STAT 6315)

### Optional Courses:

– A maximum of 6 hours of research (HORT 7000) can be included in the 30-hour total.

– A maximum of 3 hours of HORT 6070/6080 (Special Problems in Horticulture) or HORT 8080 (Horticulture

Research) can be applied to the coursework. These courses need to be taken under the direction of a faculty member other than the student's Major Professor.

– Depending on the content, certain courses may not be counted towards the program of study. For example, PBIO 8830 will not be accepted for the program of study in our department. If there is doubt as to whether a course can be counted towards the program of study, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies.

– Completion of proficiency course requirements for students lacking previous horticulture experience.

The Program of Study should be submitted using the appropriate online form. The program of study must be approved by the student's Major Professor, advisory committee, departmental Director of Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School. This must be completed by Friday of the second full week of classes of the semester in which degree requirements are completed. Courses should be listed in the order taken. 6000- and 7000- level courses open only to graduate students should be designated by an asterisk. No grade below "C" (2.0) is acceptable for a course included in a program of study. (Note: the Advisory Committee form must be submitted before or with this program of study). Changes made in the Program of Study should be reported to the Graduate School.

### **Research Prospectus and Proposal Seminar**

Each student is required to prepare a written research prospectus describing the proposed independent research to be conducted for the thesis work. The prospectus must be shared with and approved by the Advisory Committee. The prospectus must be completed before significant research is undertaken, and no later than the end of the first year of residency. Students also are required to give a departmental seminar outlining their research plans. The purpose of this seminar is twofold: 1) to inform the rest of the department what your research topic is and 2) to gain input from the department. This seminar is meant to be informal and should stimulate discussion about the planned research. This is an opportunity for the student to request input from the rest of the department. The major advisor and student should work together in developing the seminar and make a list of issues to be discussed as part of the seminar. Because it is an important goal of these seminars to gather input into the research plans, these seminars need to be given within the first year of the student's program.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/21/2025

**Department/Division:** Horticulture

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Horticulture (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking a Ph.D. in Horticulture have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin. In order to accurately track student residence while they are in the degree program, ensure that they are assessed student fees appropriate for campus of residence, and better manage their safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. The expected average number of Horticulture (Ph.D.) students on the Griffin campus is five.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Ph.D. in Horticulture at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended are part of the online application. Official transcripts are not required until applicants have been admitted. The standard GPA required for entry into the UGA Graduate School is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A Statement of Purpose, a minimum of three Letters of Recommendation, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) are also required. International students will need to provide additional information (English proficiency, Certificate of Finance, etc.). More info can be found online at [grad.uga.edu](http://grad.uga.edu).

### 3. Program Content

The program of study must consist of 30 credit hours of graduate credit. At least 16 hours of coursework must be taken at the 8000- or 9000- level. HORT 9000, Doctoral Research, may be included in the program of study, but HORT 9300, Doctoral Dissertation, should be included in the program. However, these HORT 9000 and HORT 9300 do not count towards the 16 hours of 8000- or 9000- level coursework. More specific course requirements can be found in the appendix.

### 4. Student Advising

An Advisory Committee must be appointed by the end of the first year of residence. The Horticulture Department requires the advisory committee to be composed of at least five members. A minimum of three members must be graduate faculty, including the student's Major Professor who will serve as the chair of the committee. Two members must be from outside the Horticulture Department. The committee may include one non-UGA faculty, who must hold a Ph.D. degree. The Advisory Committee, in consultation with the student, is responsible for planning the students' program, choosing a subject for the dissertation, and arranging and administering preliminary written and oral examinations.

For the appointment of the Advisory Committee, an official form must be filed with the Graduate School. Following deliberations with the Major Professor, the student should verify that selected faculty members are willing to serve. The form must be filled out by the student and then signed by the Director of Graduate Studies who will submit it to the Graduate School. If any changes are made in the composition of the Advisory Committee, the Graduate School must be notified by filing a revised Advisory Committee form.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. in Horticulture on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus. The minimum residency requirement is one academic year (two consecutive semesters of full-time study).

## **6. Program Management**

The structure and progress of the students will be managed at the Athens campus. The financials for the students will be managed by the business office at the Griffin campus. This program will be administered by faculty and staff in the Department of Horticulture. Day-to-day services will be provided by each student's faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the UGA Graduate School office. Courses will be taught by program faculty. Admissions will be managed by the UGA Graduate School and the Horticulture Director of Graduate Studies and accompanying committee. The program should be completed in eight semesters but can be completed at an alternate pace, depending on approval from the students' graduate committee.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.

- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.  
<https://griffin.uga.edu/programs/experimental-statistics/>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program
  - The Georgia Envirotron
  - University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. in Horticulture program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

No additional costs are associated with the program on the UGA Griffin Campus.

## **10. Accreditation**

The Ph.D. programs in the Department of Horticulture on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** 10/21/2025

**Department/Division:** Horticulture

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Horticulture (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Ph.D. in Horticulture have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses. The expected average number of Horticulture (Ph.D.) students on the Tifton campus is ten.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Ph.D. in Horticulture at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended are part of the online application. Official transcripts are not required until applicants have been admitted. The standard GPA required for entry into the UGA Graduate School is a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A Statement of Purpose, a minimum of three Letters of Recommendation, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) are also required. International students will need to provide additional information (English proficiency, Certificate of Finance, etc.). More info can be found online at [grad.uga.edu](http://grad.uga.edu).

### 3. Program Content

The program of study must consist of 30 credit hours of graduate credit. At least 16 hours of coursework must be taken at the 8000- or 9000- level. HORT 9000, Doctoral Research, may be included in the program of study, but HORT 9300, Doctoral Dissertation, should be included in the program. However, these HORT 9000 and HORT 9300 do not count towards the 16 hours of 8000- or 9000- level coursework. More specific course requirements can be found in the appendix.

### 4. Student Advising

An Advisory Committee must be appointed by the end of the first year of residence. The Horticulture Department requires the advisory committee to be composed of at least five members. A minimum of three members must be graduate faculty, including the student's Major Professor who will serve as the chair of the committee. Two members must be from outside the Horticulture Department. The committee may include one non-UGA faculty, who must hold the Ph.D. degree. The Advisory Committee, in consultation with the student, is responsible for planning the student's program, choosing a subject for the dissertation, and arranging and administering preliminary written and oral examinations.

For the appointment of the Advisory Committee, an official form must be filed with the Graduate School. Following deliberations with the Major Professor, the student should verify that selected faculty members are willing to serve. The form must be filled out by the student and then signed by the Director of Graduate Studies who will submit it to the Graduate School. If any changes are made in the composition of the Advisory Committee, the Graduate School must be notified by filing a revised Advisory Committee form.

## **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. in Horticulture on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus. The minimum residency requirement is one academic year (two consecutive semesters of full-time study).

## **6. Program Management**

The structure and progress of the students will be managed at the Athens campus. The financials for the students will be managed by the business office at the Tifton campus. This program will be administered by faculty and staff in the Department of Horticulture. Day-to-day services will be provided by each student's faculty advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the UGA Graduate School office. Courses will be taught by program faculty. Admissions will be managed by the UGA Graduate School and the Horticulture Director of Graduate Studies and accompanying committee. The program should be completed in eight semesters but can be completed at an alternate pace, depending on approval from the students' graduate committee.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics

- Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
    - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
  - CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
    - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
    - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
    - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
    - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
    - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
    - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
    - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
    - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
    - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
    - Centennial Garden
    - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. in Horticulture program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

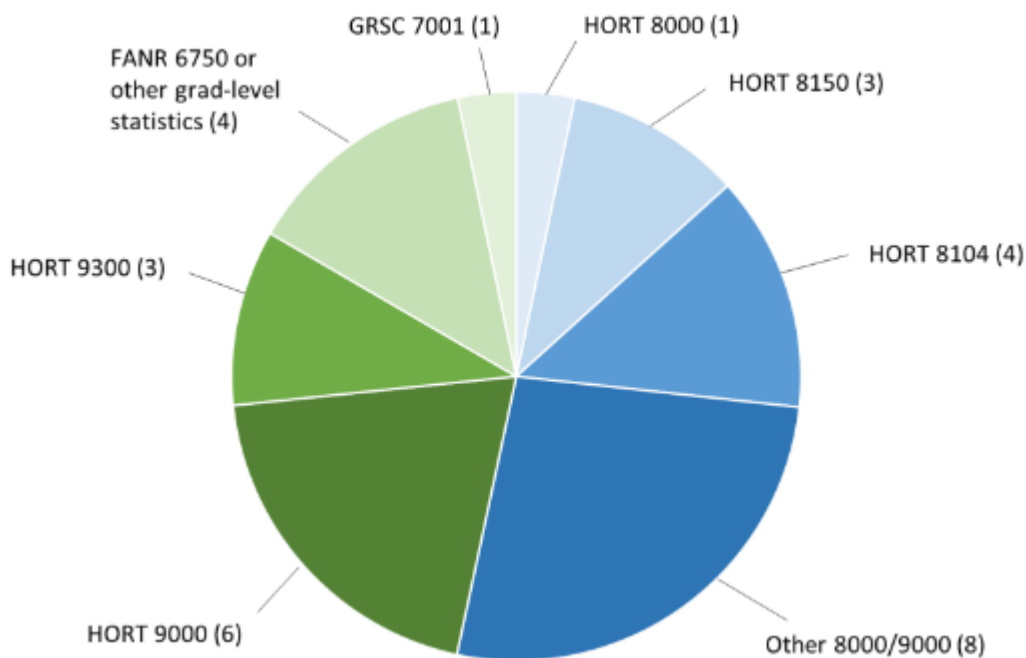
No additional costs are associated with the program on the UGA Tifton Campus.

## **10. Accreditation**

The Ph.D. programs in the Department of Horticulture on the Athens, Griffin, and Tifton campuses are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## Appendix:

Course requirements:



- 1 credit hour of HORT 8000, Horticulture Seminar. This course is offered during the spring semester and includes aspects of effective seminar presentation. Horticulture graduate students are allowed to take CRSS 8100 or CRSS(HORT) 8861 instead of HORT 8000 if HORT 8000 is not offered during that spring semester.
- HORT 8150, Plant Growth and Development (3 hours)
- HORT 8104, Advanced Plant Physiology (4 hours) or a graduate level course in chemistry/biochemistry
- 1 credit hour of GRSC 7001 (GradFIRST). This course is offered through many departments at the University of Georgia, but one section is taught through the department and will be most relevant for students in this major.
- Graduate-level statistics (FANR 6750, STAT 6220, or STAT 6315)

### Optional Courses:

- A maximum of 3 hours of HORT 6070/6080 (Special Problems in Horticulture) or HORT 8080 (Horticulture Research) can be applied to the coursework. These courses need to be taken under the direction of a faculty member other than the student's Major Professor.
- Depending on the content, certain courses may not be counted towards the program of study. If there is doubt as to whether a course can be counted towards the program of study, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies.
- Completion of proficiency course requirements for students lacking previous horticulture experience

Note: since Ph.D. students have already taken several graduate courses before starting the program, there is some leeway in the above requirements. Certain course requirements may be waived if the student has already taken a similar course during her/his M.S. program.

Students are not required to complete the M.S. before pursuing the Ph.D. Course requirements for Ph.D. students who do not have a master's degree are a bit different: The program of study for a student who bypasses the master's degree must contain 4 semester hours of University of Georgia courses open only to graduate students in addition to 16 semester hours of 8000 and 9000 level courses. Doctoral research (9000), independent study courses, and dissertation writing (9300) may not be counted in these 20 hours.

A preliminary Program of Study, developed by the Major Professor and the doctoral student and approved by a majority of the Advisory Committee, will be filed by the department by the end of the student's first year of residence. The program of study is a list of the proposed courses the student plans to take to support his or her research. All students are expected to acquire competence in general horticulture and are required to have satisfied proficiency course requirements (to be determined by the student's committee). The "Preliminary Doctoral Program of Study" form (see pg. 26) requires approval signatures from the Advisory Committee members. This form is for departmental use only and should not be sent to the Graduate School. A copy is kept in the student's departmental file.

A final Program of Study must be submitted to the Graduate School for approval of the Dean of the graduate school by the time the notification of the oral comprehensive examination is given. The final Program of Study must be submitted on the proper online form for approval by the Advisory Committee, Director of Graduate Studies, and the Dean of the Graduate School. The final Program of Study must show all graduate courses required for the doctoral program (including courses from the master's degree and courses transferred from other universities). Courses should be listed in the order taken. No grade below a "C" (2.0) is acceptable for a course included in the program of study. To be eligible to graduate, a student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average on all courses on the Program of Study and on all graduate courses taken.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 24, 2025

**Department/Division:** Plant Pathology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Pathology (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the M.S. in Plant Pathology have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. The M.S. program admits and graduates approximately five students per year across all three campuses with one on average from Griffin. Currently, there is one M.S. student in the program on the Griffin campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin. In order to accurately track student residence while they are in the degree program, ensure that they are assessed student fees appropriate for campus of residence, and better manage their safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the M.S. in Plant Pathology at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Current admission requirements include:

- a 4-year undergraduate degree in biology with a GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- Grade point average for undergraduate and/or graduate program where appropriate;
- Relevant research experience, background in biological or agricultural sciences;
- The GRE is not required for admission into the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Plant Pathology.
- Potential to complete graduate study based on evaluations provided by your references;
- Stated personal objectives, match with the department's research portfolio and a major professor;
- In the case of international applicants, TOEFL or IELTS scores are also important.

### **3. Program Content**

The M.S. Program of Study must include:

- 1) 3 hours of PATH 7000 (thesis research),
- 2) 3 hours of PATH 7300 (thesis writing),
- 3) a total of not less than 24 semester hours of graduate courses, excluding thesis research (PATH 7000) and thesis writing (PATH 7300),
- 4) at least 12 of which must be in courses open only to graduate students, although classes open to both undergraduate and graduate students which have only graduate students registered can also count.

Credits from courses such as GRSC 7001, GRSC 7770, GRSC 9270, and ELAN 7768/7769 do not count toward the 24-hour minimum. At least half of the 24 hours of formal course work must be in graduate courses in Plant Pathology. A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained on all graduate courses taken, and no grade below 2.0 (C) will be accepted as part of a Program of Study.

### **4. Student Advising**

The advisory committee for M.S. students will consist of the Major Professor and at least two other faculty members and should be appointed during the first or second semester of residence. Students who do all or part of their thesis/dissertation research at the Griffin or Tifton campuses may have a member of the advisory committee assigned to counsel the student while at a location away from the Major Professor.

The student and Major Professor may want to consider developing a written mentorship agreement outlining mutually agreed upon goals and expectations that can serve as the foundation for the mentor-mentee relationship. While mentors and mentees may find mentorship agreements to be useful, they are optional.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the M.S. in Plant Pathology on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

This program will be administered by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology with cooperation from other faculty at the University of Georgia in departments with relevance to the students' thesis research. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member serving as major advisor, with support from the departments' Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the college's Office of Academic & Faculty Affairs. Courses will be taught by program faculty, postdocs with teaching appointments, and/or graduate teaching assistants. Admissions are managed twice per year for fall and spring enrollment by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies. Student Learning Objectives for this program are reported within the UGA required processes.

As per Graduate School policy: Graduate programs shall have a program handbook for students that is publicly available on the program website. Program expectations, timelines, and resources are clearly stated in the handbook – found at <https://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/graduate/current-students.html>.

## 7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus. Some students in this program would use this resource.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program

- The Georgia Envirotron
- University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the M.S. in Plant Pathology program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program at the external campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Plant Pathology on the Griffin campus are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 24, 2025

**Department/Division:** Plant Pathology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Pathology (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the M.S. in Plant Pathology have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty resident at the UGA Tifton Campus. The M.S. program admits and graduates approximately five students per year across all three campuses with two on average from Tifton. Currently, there are nine M.S. students in the program on the Tifton campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the M.S. in Plant Pathology at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. The admission requirements for the M.S. in Plant Pathology at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Current admission requirements include a 4-year undergraduate degree in biology with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Grade point average for undergraduate and/or graduate program where appropriate;

- Relevant research experience, background in biological or agricultural sciences;
- The GRE is not required for admission into the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Plant Pathology.
- Potential to complete graduate study based on evaluations provided by your references;
- Stated personal objectives, match with the department's research portfolio and a major professor;
- In the case of international applicants, TOEFL or IELTS scores are also important.

## 3. Program Content

The M.S. Program of Study must include:

- 1) 3 hours of PATH 7000 (thesis research),

- 2) 3 hours of PATH 7300 (thesis writing),
- 3) a total of not less than 24 semester hours of graduate courses, excluding thesis research (PATH 7000) and thesis writing (PATH 7300),
- 4) at least 12 of which must be in courses open only to graduate students, although classes open to both undergraduate and graduate students which have only graduate students registered can also count.

Credits from courses such as GRSC 7001, GRSC 7770, GRSC 9270, and ELAN 7768/7769 do not count toward the 24-hour minimum. At least half of the 24 hours of formal course work must be in graduate courses in Plant Pathology. A grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained on all graduate courses taken, and no grade below 2.0 (C) will be accepted as part of a Program of Study.

#### **4. Student Advising**

The advisory committee for M.S. students will consist of the Major Professor and at least two other faculty members and should be appointed during the first or second semester of residence. Students who do all or part of their thesis/dissertation research at the Griffin or Tifton campuses may have a member of the advisory committee assigned to counsel the student while at a location away from the Major Professor.

The student and Major Professor may want to consider developing a written mentorship agreement outlining mutually agreed upon goals and expectations that can serve as the foundation for the mentor-mentee relationship. While mentors and mentees may find mentorship agreements to be useful, they are optional.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the M.S. in Plant Pathology on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

#### **6. Program Management**

This program will be administered by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology with cooperation from other faculty at the University of Georgia in departments with relevance to the students' thesis research. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member serving as major advisor, with support from the department's Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the college's Office of Academic & Faculty Affairs. Courses will be taught by program faculty, postdocs with teaching appointments, and/or graduate teaching assistants. Admissions are managed twice per year for fall and spring enrollment by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies. Student Learning Objectives for this program are reported within the UGA required processes.

As per Graduate School policy: Graduate programs shall have a program handbook for students that is publicly available on the program website. Program expectations, timelines, and resources are clearly stated in the handbook – found at <https://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/graduate/current-students.html>.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.

- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the M.S. in Plant Pathology program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program at the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Plant Pathology on the Tifton campus are accredited per

the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 24, 2025

**Department/Division:** Plant Pathology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Pathology (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For several years, graduate students seeking the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing on the UGA Griffin Campus. The Ph.D. program admits and graduates approximately six students per year across all three campuses with one on average from Griffin. Currently, there are four Ph.D. students in the program on the Griffin campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin. In order to accurately track student residence while they are in the degree program, ensure that they are assessed student fees appropriate for campus of residence, and better manage their safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Current admission requirements include a 4-year undergraduate degree in biology with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Grade point average for undergraduate and/or graduate program where appropriate;

- Relevant research experience, background in biological or agricultural sciences;
- The GRE is not required for admission into the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Plant Pathology.
- Potential to complete graduate study based on evaluations provided by your references;
- Stated personal objectives, match with the department's research portfolio and a major professor;
- In the case of international applicants, TOEFL or IELTS scores are also important.

## 3. Program Content

The Ph.D. program of study should consist of 16 or more hours of 8000-level courses in addition to research, dissertation writing, and directed study. This program must include all course work to be applied to the degree and must include 3 hours of PATH 9000 (dissertation research) and 3 hours of PATH 9300 (dissertation writing). The specific number of hours required for the Ph.D. degree is determined by the

student's advisory committee; however, the Graduate School expects a minimum of 30 hours of course work, that must include three hours of dissertation writing (PATH 9300) and dissertation research (PATH 9000). At least 12 hours of course work in Plant Pathology is required. Credits from courses such as GRSC 7001, GRSC 7770, GRSC 9270, and ELAN 7768/7769 do not count toward the 30-hour minimum. The student must maintain an average of 3.0 or higher on all graduate courses taken. No grade below 2.0 is acceptable for courses on the Program of Study.

#### **4. Student Advising**

The advisory committee for Ph.D. students will consist of the Major Professor and at least three other faculty members and should be appointed during the first or second semester of residence. Students who do all or part of their thesis/dissertation research at the Griffin or Tifton campuses may have a member of the advisory committee assigned to counsel the student while at a location away from the Major Professor.

The student and Major Professor may want to consider developing a written mentorship agreement outlining mutually agreed upon goals and expectations that can serve as the foundation for the mentor-mentee relationship. While mentors and mentees may find mentorship agreements to be useful, they are optional.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

#### **6. Program Management**

This program will be administered by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology with cooperation from other faculty at the University of Georgia in departments with relevance to the students' thesis research. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member serving as major advisor, with support from the department's Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the college's Office of Academic & Faculty Affairs. Courses will be taught by program faculty, postdocs with teaching appointments, and/or graduate teaching assistants. Admissions are managed twice per year for fall and spring enrollment by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies. Student Learning Objectives for this program are reported within the UGA required processes.

As per Graduate School policy: Graduate programs shall have a program handbook for students that is publicly available on the program website. Program expectations, timelines, and resources are clearly stated in the handbook – found at <https://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/graduate/current-students.html>.

#### **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>

- Laboratories: The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus. Some students in this program would use this resource.
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- CAES Programs on the UGA Griffin Campus:
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program
  - The Georgia Envirotron
  - University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program at the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Plant Pathology on the Griffin campus are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

# PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 24, 2025

**Department/Division:** Plant Pathology

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Pathology (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** No

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

## 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. The Ph.D. program admits and graduates approximately six students per year across all three campuses with two on average from Tifton. Currently, there are eleven Ph.D. students in the program on the Tifton campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus are able to complete >50% and up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton. To accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances, this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

## 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. Current admission requirements include a 4-year undergraduate degree in biology with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Grade point average for undergraduate and/or graduate program where appropriate;

- Relevant research experience, background in biological or agricultural sciences;
- The GRE is not required for admission into the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Plant Pathology.
- Potential to complete graduate study based on evaluations provided by your references;
- Stated personal objectives, match with the department's research portfolio and a major professor;
- In the case of international applicants, TOEFL or IELTS scores are also important.

## 3. Program Content

The Ph.D. program of study should consist of 16 or more hours of 8000-level courses in addition to research, dissertation writing, and directed study. This program must include all course work to be applied

to the degree and must include 3 hours of PATH 9000 (dissertation research) and 3 hours of PATH 9300 (dissertation writing). The specific number of hours required for the Ph.D. degree is determined by the student's advisory committee; however, the Graduate School expects a minimum of 30 hours of course work, that must include three hours of dissertation writing (PATH 9300) and dissertation research (PATH 9000). At least 12 hours of course work in Plant Pathology is required. Credits from courses such as GRSC 7001, GRSC 7770, GRSC 9270, and ELAN 7768/7769 do not count toward the 30-hour minimum. The student must maintain an average of 3.0 or higher on all graduate courses taken. No grade below 2.0 is acceptable for courses on the Program of Study.

#### **4. Student Advising**

The advisory committee for Ph.D. students will consist of the Major Professor and at least three other faculty members and should be appointed during the first or second semester of residence. Students who do all or part of their thesis/dissertation research at the Griffin or Tifton campuses may have a member of the advisory committee assigned to counsel the student while at a location away from the Major Professor.

The student and Major Professor may want to consider developing a written mentorship agreement outlining mutually agreed upon goals and expectations that can serve as the foundation for the mentor-mentee relationship. While mentors and mentees may find mentorship agreements to be useful, they are optional.

#### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

#### **6. Program Management**

This program will be administered by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology with cooperation from other faculty at the University of Georgia in departments with relevance to the students' thesis research. Day-to-day services will be supported by a faculty member serving as major advisor, with support from the department's Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Program Administrator. Additional support will be provided by the college's Office of Academic & Faculty Affairs. Courses will be taught by program faculty, postdocs with teaching appointments, and/or graduate teaching assistants. Admissions are managed twice per year for fall and spring enrollment by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee, which is chaired by the Director of Graduate Studies. Student Learning Objectives for this program are reported within the UGA required processes.

As per Graduate School policy: Graduate programs shall have a program handbook for students that is publicly available on the program website. Program expectations, timelines, and resources are clearly stated in the handbook – found at <https://plantpath.caes.uga.edu/graduate/current-students.html>.

## 7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus.  
<https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program at the extended campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Plant Pathology on the Tifton campus are accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

**PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE**

**Date:** November 12, 2025

**Department/Division:** Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics (IPBGG)

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

**1. Assessment**

For many years, graduate students seeking the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residents at the UGA Griffin Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin.

**IPBGG M.S. enrollment in Griffin for the past five years:**

2020 Spr	2020 Sum	2020 Fall	2021 Spr	2021 Sum	2021 Fall	2022 Spr	2022 Sum	2022 Fall	2023 Spr	2023 Sum	2023 Fall	2024 Spr	2024 Sum	2024 Fall	2025 Spr	2025 Sum	2025 Fall
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0

The figures show that the demand for M.S. PBGG students is getting established in Griffin. The uptick started with the hiring of a peach breeder. At the same time, two senior faculty members were retiring and closing their research programs. Since then, three new assistant professors have been hired. There are now 7 research faculty affiliated with the IPBGG at Griffin, all of whom train graduate students as part of their description. Hence the expectation is for the population of M.S.-level graduate students to grow and stabilize as the new faculty get their research programs under way. It is also important to consider that the M.S. students in Griffin are not alone. Instead, as explained elsewhere, they are part of the larger cohort of PBGG majors, of which there are about 60 at any given time. They take classes together with the students in Athens and Tifton, attend the same seminars, symposia, and retreats, and are members of the same Graduate Student Association.

Having the M.S. in PBGG officially recognized on the Griffin campus will make it possible to accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances. This proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

**2. Admission Requirements**

The admission requirements for the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (M.S.) degree at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. These are:

- GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- For international students, English language proficiency by taking the TOEFL or IELTS with the minimal scores set by the UGA Graduate School
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A statement of purpose

### **3. Program Content**

M.S. students must have 30 credit hours to graduate comprised of:

- 21 hours of coursework, 12 hours of which are graduate level courses only (not from split undergraduate/graduate courses, e.g., 4100/6100)
- 9 hours of research (6) and thesis writing (3)
- The following courses are required for graduation:
  - one course of Research Seminar (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8861)
  - one course of Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 6140)
  - one course of Plant Breeding Practicum (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 6000)
  - one Statistics course (STAT 6315 or FANR 6750 or higher)
  - 3 credits of thesis writing (PBGG 7300)

### **4. Student Advising**

Advising is identical on all three UGA campuses. The PBGG M.S. is thesis-based with research conducted under the supervision of a major advisor and approval of a research proposal by an advisory committee. The advisory committee is charged with framing and approving programs of study, advising students on required research skills, directing and approving the comprehensive examinations, guiding the design of thesis research projects, reading and approving the final thesis document and approving the final oral examination (defense). The advisory committee consists of the Major Professor, who must have Graduate Faculty status, and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must have Graduate Faculty status. This committee will approve the student's program of study and thesis plan and administer the final oral examination.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The major is managed by a Director of Graduate Studies, who is responsible for ensuring that graduate students satisfy the requirements specified by the IPBGG Graduate Program Faculty and the Graduate School. This person is responsible for all communication between IPBGG and the Graduate School.

The IPBGG is guided by a steering committee that doubles as the Graduate Committee, and which is composed of one faculty member from each campus. The Graduate Committee is charged with maintaining the graduate curriculum with input from the membership, setting graduate admissions standards, recommending nationally competitive stipends, and coordinating student recruitment efforts. They also assist with the annual assessment of the major, and review proposed course changes and new course applications, and acts on proposals for changes in the IPBGG majors. They also review all student applications and recommend students for admission. A Graduate Program Administrator assists the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Committee carry out their work.

Program quality assessment is built into the annual Student Learning Objectives. These assess five areas of student learning:

- General PBGG proficiency
- Plant breeding workflow knowledge
- Communication skills
- Writing skills
- Integration with scientific community

To gather the necessary information, the Graduate Program Administrator tracks the progress of every student as they advance through their program milestones – from committee establishment and preliminary program of study through proposal, prelims, and defense. Furthermore, students are assessed by their major professor annually, and by their committee members after their preliminary exams and their thesis/dissertation defense via standardized survey forms. Students also report their activities on an annual basis and fill out an exit survey. All the forms can be accessed via the IPBGG website at <https://plantbreeding.caes.uga.edu/for-current-students/resources/forms.html>.

### **Offices providing additional support**

The Griffin campus also supports its resident graduate students through its Office of Academic & Student Affairs.

Poster printing assistance and IT assistance are both available through the Office of Information Technology (OIT) service desk for Griffin <https://oit.caes.uga.edu/>.

In addition, Griffin has an Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus <https://griffin.uga.edu/programs/experimental-statistics/>.

Finally, there is an IPBGG Graduate Student Association that is very active in Griffin. Its mission is to advocate for graduate students at the Institute and University levels, while providing the students with professional, academic, and social networks.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences

- Entomology
- Food Science & Technology
- Horticulture
- Plant Pathology
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center

CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:

- GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
- Laboratory for Biometeorology
- Landscape Pest Management
- Master Gardener Program
- Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
- Research & Education Garden
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
- Statewide Variety Testing Program
- Structural Pest Management Program
- The Georgia Envirotron
- University of Georgia Weather Network

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program at a level comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the Griffin campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. program in the Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics on the Griffin campus is accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

**PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE**

**Date:** October 28, 2025

**Department/Division:** Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics (IPBGG)

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (M.S.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

**1. Assessment**

For many years, graduate students seeking the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this degree program at the Tifton Campus are able to complete up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton.

**IPBGG MS enrollment in Tifton for the past five years:**

2020 Spr	2020 Sum	2020 Fall	2021 Spr	2021 Sum	2021 Fall	2022 Spr	2022 Sum	2022 Fall	2023 Spr	2023 Sum	2023 Fall	2024 Spr	2024 Sum	2024 Fall	2025 Spr	2025 Sum	2025 Fall
6	6	7	6	4	7	7	7	8	9	9	11	10	9	8	8	7	9

The figures show that enrollment has been steady, with about a 50% increase in recent years. This increase reflects the recent hiring of four new faculty members in Tifton who are affiliated with the IPBGG. There are now 9 research faculty affiliated with the IPBGG at Tifton, all of whom train graduate students as part of their mission. Hence there is enough demand to sustain M.S. enrollment on the Tifton campus. This is even more so when one considers, as explained elsewhere, that the students at Tifton are part of the larger cohort of PBGG majors, of which there are about 60 at any given time. They take classes together with the students in Athens and Griffin, attend the same seminars, symposia, and retreats, and are members of the same Graduate Student Association.

Having the M.S. in PBGG officially recognized on the Tifton campus will make it possible to accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances; this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

**2. Admission Requirements**

The admission requirements for the M.S. in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. These are:

- GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- For international students, English language proficiency by taking the TOEFL or IELTS with the minimal scores set by the UGA Graduate School
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A statement of purpose

### **3. Program Content**

M.S. students must have 30 credit hours to graduate comprised of:

- 21 hours of coursework, 12 hours of which are graduate level courses only (not from split undergraduate/graduate courses, e.g., 4100/6100).
- 9 hours of research (6) and thesis writing (3)
- The following courses are required for graduation:
  - one course of Research Seminar (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8861)
  - one course of Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 6140)
  - one course of Plant Breeding Practicum (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 6000)
  - one Statistics course (STAT 6315 or FANR 6750 or higher)
  - 3 credits of thesis writing (PBGG 7300)

### **4. Student Advising**

Advising is identical on all three UGA campuses. The PBGG M.S. is thesis-based, with research conducted under the supervision of a major advisor and approval of a research proposal by an advisory committee. The advisory committee is charged with framing and approving programs of study, advising students on required research skills, directing and approving the comprehensive examinations, guiding the design of thesis research projects, reading and approving the final thesis document and approving the final oral examination (defense). The advisory committee consists of the Major Professor, who must have Graduate Faculty status, and two other faculty members, at least one of whom must have Graduate Faculty status. This committee will approve the student's program of study and thesis plan and administer the final oral examination.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The major is managed by a Director of Graduate Studies, who is responsible for ensuring that graduate students satisfy the requirements specified by the IPBGG Graduate Program Faculty and the Graduate School. This person is responsible for all communication between IPBGG and the Graduate School.

The IPBGG is guided by a steering committee that doubles as the Graduate Committee, and which is composed of one faculty member from each campus. The Graduate Committee is charged with maintaining the graduate curriculum with input from the membership, setting graduate admissions standards, recommending nationally competitive stipends, and coordinating student recruitment efforts. They also assist with the annual assessment of the major, and review proposed course changes and new course applications, and acts on proposals for changes in the IPBGG majors. They also review all student applications and recommend students for admission. A Graduate Program Administrator assists the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee carry out their work.

Program quality assessment is built into the annual Student Learning Objectives. These assess five areas of student learning:

- General PBGG proficiency
- Plant breeding workflow knowledge
- Communication skills
- Writing skills
- Integration with scientific community

To gather the necessary information, the Graduate Program Administrator tracks the progress of every student as they advance through their program milestones – from committee establishment and preliminary program of study through proposal, prelims, and defense. Furthermore, students are assessed by their major professor annually, and by their committee members after their preliminary exams and their thesis/dissertation defense via standardized survey forms. Students also report their activities on an annual basis and fill out an exit survey. All the forms can be accessed via the IPBGG website at <https://plantbreeding.caes.uga.edu/for-current-students/resources/forms.html>.

### **Offices providing additional support**

The Tifton campus also supports its resident graduate students through its Office for Academic Affairs office, which includes a Director of Graduate Studies and support staff for the campus.

Poster printing assistance and IT assistance are both available through the Tifton campus administrative offices <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/it-services/poster-printing-guidelines.html>.

There is an Experimental Statistics Unit, where the resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>.

Finally, there is an IPBGG Graduate Student Association that is very active in Tifton. Its mission is to advocate for graduate students at the Institute and University levels, while providing the students with professional, academic, and social networks.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- **Library:** Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- **Laboratories:** The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture

- Plant Pathology
- Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the M.S. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program at a level comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the Tifton campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The M.S. program in the Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the Tifton campus is accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE

**Date:** November 12, 2025

**Department/Division:** Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (IPBGG)

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Breeding, Genetics, & Genomics (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Griffin campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

### 1. Assessment

For many years, graduate students seeking the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residing at the UGA Griffin Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students in this program at the Griffin Campus are able to complete up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Griffin.

**IPBGG Ph.D. enrollment in Griffin for the past five years:**

2020 Spr	2020 Sum	2020 Fall	2021 Spr	2021 Sum	2021 Fall	2022 Spr	2022 Sum	2022 Fall	2023 Spr	2023 Sum	2023 Fall	2024 Spr	2024 Sum	2024 Fall	2025 Spr	2025 Sum	2025 Fall
1	1	4	6	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	4	5

The figures show that the demand for PBGG Ph.D. students dropped recently in Griffin. This is because two senior faculty members were retiring and closing their research programs. Since then, three new assistant professors have been hired. There are now 7 research faculty affiliated with the IPBGG at Griffin, all of whom will need to train graduate students as part of their job description. Hence the expectation is for the population of Ph.D.-level graduate students to grow and stabilize as the new faculty get their research programs underway. It is also important to consider that the Ph.D. students in Griffin are not alone. Instead, as explained elsewhere, they are part of the larger cohort of PBGG majors, of which there are about 60 at any given time. They take classes together with the students in Athens and Tifton, attend the same seminars, symposia, and retreats, and are members of the same Graduate Student Association.

Having the Ph.D. in PBGG officially recognized on the Griffin campus will make it possible to accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances; this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Griffin Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

### 2. Admission Requirements

The admission requirements for the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics at the UGA Griffin Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. These are:

- GPA of 3.5 or greater
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- For international students, English language proficiency by taking the TOEFL or IELTS with the minimal scores set by the UGA Graduate School
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A statement of purpose

### 3. Program Content

For Ph.D. students who have earned an M.S. degree, students must have 30 credit hours to graduate, comprised of:

- 16 hours of coursework (a minimum of 16 hours of 8000-9000 level credits) excluding 9000/9005/9300
- 3 hours of dissertation writing (9300)
- 6 hours minimum of research (PBGG 9000)
- The following courses are required for graduation:
  - two credits of Graduate Seminar (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8860 & PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8861) \*requirement is satisfied if taken at UGA in M.S. program
  - Advanced Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8140)
  - Plant Breeding Practicum (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8000; students with credit in PBGG 6000 should take PBGG 8001)
  - Plant Genetics (PBIO 8100 or PBGG 8890 or comparable)
  - Research Methods and Design for Crop Science (PBGG 8010) or equivalent

For Ph.D. students without an M.S. degree, students must have 36 credit hours to graduate, comprised of:

- 27 hours of coursework (a minimum of 16 hours of 8000-9000 level credits), and including M.S./Ph.D. requirements
- 3 hours of dissertation writing (9300)
- 9 hours minimum of research (PBGG 9000)
- The following courses are required for graduation:
  - two credits of Graduate Seminar (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8860 & PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8861) \*requirement is satisfied if taken at UGA in M.S. program
  - Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 6140)
  - Plant Breeding Practicum (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8000)
  - Advanced Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8140)
  - Plant Genetics (PBIO 8100 or PBGG 8890 or comparable)
  - Statistics (STAT 6315 or FANR 6750 or higher)
  - Research Methods and Design for Crop Science (PBGG 8010) or equivalent

### 4. Student Advising

Advising is identical on all three UGA campuses. The PBGG Ph.D. is dissertation-based, with research conducted under the supervision of a major advisor and approval of a research proposal by an advisory committee. The advisory committee is charged with framing and approving programs of study, advising students on required research skills, directing and approving the comprehensive examinations, guiding the design of dissertation research projects, administering the preliminary exams, reading and approving the final dissertation document and approving the final oral examination (defense). The advisory committee consists of the Major Professor, who must have Graduate Faculty status, and no more than one non-UGA faculty, who must hold a terminal degree in his/her field of study. More than 50% of the committee must be members of

the Graduate Program Faculty. This committee will approve the student's program of study and dissertation prospectus and administer the final oral examination.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the UGA Griffin Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The major is managed by a Director of Graduate Studies, who is responsible for ensuring that graduate students satisfy the requirements specified by the IPBGG Graduate Program Faculty and the Graduate School. This person is responsible for all communication between IPBGG and the Graduate School.

The IPBGG is guided by a steering committee that doubles as the Graduate Committee, and which is composed of one faculty member from each campus. The Graduate Committee is charged with maintaining the graduate curriculum with input from the membership, setting graduate admissions standards, recommending nationally competitive stipends, and coordinating student recruitment efforts. They also assist with the annual assessment of the major, and review proposed course changes and new course applications, and acts on proposals for changes in the IPBGG majors. They also review all student applications and recommend students for admission. A Graduate Program Administrator assists the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee carry out their work.

Program quality assessment is built into the annual Student Learning Objectives. These assess five areas of student learning:

- General PBGG proficiency
- Plant breeding workflow knowledge
- Communication skills
- Writing skills
- Integration with scientific community

To gather the necessary information, the Graduate Program Administrator tracks the progress of every student as they advance through their program milestones – from committee establishment and preliminary program of study through proposal, prelims, and defense. Furthermore, students are assessed by their major professor annually, and by their committee members after their preliminary exams and their thesis/dissertation defense via standardized survey forms. Students also report their activities on an annual basis and fill out an exit survey. All the forms can be accessed via the IPBGG website at <https://plantbreeding.caes.uga.edu/for-current-students/resources/forms.html>.

### **Offices providing additional support**

The Griffin campus also supports its resident graduate students through its Office of Academic & Student Affairs.

Poster printing assistance and IT assistance are both available through the Office of Information Technology (OIT) service desk for Griffin <https://oit.caes.uga.edu/>.

In addition, Griffin has an Experimental Statistics Unit: The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus <https://griffin.uga.edu/programs/experimental-statistics/>.

Finally, there is an IPBGG Graduate Student Association that is very active in Griffin. Its mission is to advocate for graduate students at the Institute and University levels, while providing the students with professional, academic, and social networks.

## 7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources

- **Library:** The existing library at the UGA Griffin Campus is staffed by one full-time librarian and one part-time librarian to assist students in their studies. Since there are research scientists and graduate students on the UGA Griffin Campus who are microbiologists, geneticists, biochemists, and entomologists, the library has holdings appropriate for biotechnology students. Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed. <http://griffin.uga.edu/library/>
- **Laboratories:** The Redding Building on the Griffin Campus houses quality teaching labs and adjoining prep rooms, a small genetics teaching/research lab, a soil microbiology research/teaching lab, a microbiology and cell biology teaching/research lab, a horticultural lab, and a food science lab. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **Experimental Statistics Unit:** The resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Griffin Campus.
- **CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Griffin Campus:**
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Food Science & Technology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
- **CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - Center for Food Safety
  - Center for Urban Agriculture
  - Food Product Innovation & Commercialization Center
- **CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:**
  - GeorgiaTurf—Turfgrass Program
  - Laboratory for Biometeorology
  - Landscape Pest Management
  - Master Gardener Program
  - Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit (USDA)
  - Research & Education Garden
  - Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program
  - Structural Pest Management Program
  - The Georgia Envirotron
  - University of Georgia Weather Network

**8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics program on the UGA Griffin Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program to levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

**9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the Griffin campus will not incur any additional costs.

**10. Accreditation**

The Ph.D. program in the Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the Griffin campus is accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

**PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE**

**Date:** November 12, 2025

**Department/Division:** Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (IPBGG)

**School/College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Program (Major and Degree):** Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (Ph.D.)

**Which campus(es) will offer this program?** Athens, Griffin, Tifton; this proposal is for the Tifton campus

**Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major?** N/A

**Proposed Effective Date:** Fall 2026

**1. Assessment**

For many years, graduate students seeking the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics have had the option to pursue their research under the guidance of faculty residents at the UGA Tifton Campus. While students in this program may opt to reside in Athens for a semester or two to take specific courses or complete specialized aspects of their research, students at the Tifton Campus in this degree program are able to complete up to 100% of their coursework while remaining resident in Tifton.

**IPBGG Ph.D. enrollment in Tifton for the past five years:**

2020 Spr	2020 Sum	2020 Fall	2021 Spr	2021 Sum	2021 Fall	2022 Spr	2022 Sum	2022 Fall	2023 Spr	2023 Sum	2023 Fall	2024 Spr	2024 Sum	2024 Fall	2025 Spr	2025 Sum	2025 Fall
3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	9	9	9	10	12	11	13	13	14	16

The figures show that enrollment has been steadily increasing, with about a 5-fold increase in recent years. This increase reflects the recent hiring of four new faculty members in Tifton who are affiliated with the IPBGG. There are now 9 research faculty affiliated with the IPBGG at Tifton, all of whom train graduate students as part of their mission. Hence there is enough demand to sustain Ph.D. enrollment on the Tifton campus. This is even more so when one considers, as explained elsewhere, that the students at Tifton are part of the larger cohort of PBGG majors, of which there are about 60 at any given time. They take classes together with the students in Athens and Griffin, attend the same seminars, symposia, and retreats, and are members of the same Graduate Student Association.

Having the Ph.D. in PBGG officially recognized on the Tifton campus will make it possible to accurately track campus residence while these students are in the degree program, ensure that the correct student fees are assessed, and better manage student safety and security in the event of disasters and local disturbances; this proposal seeks recognition of the UGA Tifton Campus as an official site for the degree so that students may designate it as their campus of residence in any given semester when they register for courses.

**2. Admission Requirements**

The admission requirements for the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (Ph.D.) degree at the UGA Tifton Campus will be the same as those for the existing degree on the Athens Campus. These are:

- GPA of 3.5 or greater

- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts
- For international students, English language proficiency by taking the TOEFL or IELTS with the minimal scores set by the UGA Graduate School
- A Curriculum Vitae
- A statement of purpose

### 3. Program Content

For Ph.D. students who have already earned an M.S. degree, students must have 30 credit hours to graduate, comprised of:

- 16 hours of coursework (a minimum of 16 hours of 8000-9000 level credits) excluding 9000/9005/9300
- 3 hours of dissertation writing (9300)
- 6 hours minimum of research (PBGG 9000)
- The following courses are required for graduation:
  - 
  - two credits of Graduate Seminar (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8860 & PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8861) \*requirement is satisfied if taken at UGA in M.S. program
  - Advanced Plant Breeding (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8140)
  - Plant Breeding Practicum (PBGG/CRSS/HORT 8000; students with credit in PBGG 6000 should take PBGG 8001)
  - Plant Genetics (PBIO 8100 or PBGG 8890 or comparable)
  - Research Methods and Design for Crop Science (PBGG 8010) or equivalent

For Ph.D. students without an M.S. degree, students must have 36 credit hours to graduate, comprised of:

- 27 hours of coursework (a minimum of 16 hours of 8000-9000 level credits), and including M.S./Ph.D. requirements
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### 4. Student Advising

Advising is identical on all three UGA campuses. The PBGG Ph.D. is dissertation-based, with research conducted under the supervision of a major advisor and approval of a research proposal by an advisory committee. The advisory committee is charged with framing and approving programs of study, advising students on required research skills, directing and approving the comprehensive examinations, guiding the design of dissertation research projects, administering the preliminary exams, reading and approving the final dissertation document and approving the final oral examination (defense). The advisory committee consists of the Major Professor, who must have Graduate Faculty status, and no more than one non-UGA faculty, who must hold a terminal degree in his/her field of study. More than 50% of the committee must be members of

the Graduate Program Faculty. This committee will approve the student's program of study and dissertation prospectus and administer the final oral examination.

### **5. Resident Requirements**

The resident requirements for the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics on the UGA Tifton Campus will be identical to those on the UGA Athens Campus.

### **6. Program Management**

The major is managed by a Director of Graduate Studies, who is responsible for ensuring that graduate students satisfy the requirements specified by the IPBGG Graduate Program Faculty and the Graduate School. This person is responsible for all communication between IPBGG and the Graduate School.

The IPBGG is guided by a steering committee that doubles as the Graduate Committee, and which is composed of one faculty member from each campus. The Graduate Committee is charged with maintaining the graduate curriculum with input from the membership, setting graduate admissions standards, recommending nationally competitive stipends, and coordinating student recruitment efforts. They also assist with the annual assessment of the major, and review proposed course changes and new course applications, and acts on proposals for changes in the IPBGG majors. They also review all student applications and recommend students for admission. A Graduate Program Administrator assists the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Committee carry out their work.

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### **Offices providing additional support**

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Poster printing assistance and IT assistance are both available through the Tifton campus administrative offices. <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/it-services/poster-printing-guidelines.html>

There is an Experimental Statistics Unit, where the resident Research Scientist in Applied Statistics provides statistical support to researchers and students on the UGA Tifton Campus: <https://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/administrative-offices/statistics.html>.

Finally, there is an IPBGG Graduate Student Association that is very active in Tifton. Its mission is to advocate for graduate students at the Institute and University levels, while providing the students with professional, academic, and social networks.

## **7. Library, Laboratories and Other Specialized Resources**

- Library: Many of the library resources of UGA and the other institutions in the University System of Georgia are available online to any UGA student enrolled in classes; thus, students will have access to a wealth of scholarly journals for any research needed.
- Laboratories: The NESPAL Building on the Tifton Campus houses quality teaching laboratories including a computer science room, and functional room space that has benches for specimen review. Research laboratories and core facilities equipped to support students in this degree program are maintained by faculty in several additional buildings on the UGA Tifton Campus.
- CAES Departments and Research on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Agricultural & Applied Economics
  - Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communication
  - Animal & Dairy Science
  - Crop & Soil Sciences
  - Entomology
  - Horticulture
  - Plant Pathology
  - Poultry Science
- CAES Centers on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - Center for Invasive Species Ecosystem Health
- CAES Programs on the UGA Tifton Campus:
  - UGA Warm Season Turfgrass Breeding Program
  - UGA Peanut Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Pecan Genetics & Breeding Program
  - UGA Blueberry Breeding Program
  - UGA Vegetable Breeding Program
  - UGA Cotton Breeding Program
  - Southeast Watershed Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - Crop Genetics & Breeding Research Unit (USDA/ARS)
  - UGA Tifton Vegetable Park
  - Centennial Garden
  - Statewide Variety Testing Program – Tifton Support Unit

## **8. Budget**

No additional funding is requested to support the Ph.D. degree in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics program on the UGA Tifton Campus. Adequate teaching FTE and classroom/laboratory resources currently exist on the campus to support the program at levels comparable to what students receive on the Athens Campus.

## **9. Program Costs Assessed to Students**

Students completing the program on the Tifton campus will not incur any additional costs.

## **10. Accreditation**

The Ph.D. program in the Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics on the Tifton campus is accredited per the UGA policy related to the PRAC review, which occurs every 7 years.

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Offer the following seven existing majors at external campuses: Animal and Dairy Sciences (M.S. Thesis, M.S. Non-Thesis, Ph.D.) on the Tifton Campus; Crop and Soil Sciences (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses; Entomology (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses; Food Science and Technology (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin Campus; Horticulture (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses; Plant Pathology (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses; Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics (M.S., Ph.D.) on the Griffin and Tifton Campuses

**College:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**Department:** Animal and Dairy Sciences; Crop and Soil Sciences; Entomology; Food Science and Technology; Horticulture; Institute for Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics; Plant Pathology

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2026

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Entomology, Dr. Sonia Altizer, 11/1/2025
- Head of the Department of Plant Pathology, Dr. Marin Brewer, 11/24/2025
- Interim Head of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Dr. Faith Critzer, 11/15/2025
- Assistant Provost and Griffin Campus Director, Dr. Jeffrey Dean, 1/22/2026
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Assistant Dean for the Tifton Campus, Dr. Timothy Grey, 1/22/2026
- Head of the Department of Horticulture, Dr. Leonardo Lombardini, 12/8/2025
- Head of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Dr. Jodi Lynn Johnson Maynard, 12/8/2025
- Director of the Institute for Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics, Dr. Wayne Parrott, 11/12/2025
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean, Dr. Nick T. Place, 1/22/2026
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 2/6/2026
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Manpreet Singh, 1/22/2026
- Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Alexander Stelzleni, 11/17/2025