Plant and microbial biologists study all aspects of biology as they pertain to plants or fungi and make important contributions to analyzing and preserving biodiversity worldwide. They work to enhance the nutritional value of crops, as well as their resistance to disease, pests, and drought while working to reduce the need for pesticides, fertilizer, and irrigation.

Most plant and microbial biology majors cite research experiences as the most important component of their education and with the University of Minnesota being a top institution for plant research you’ll have exceptional preparation for your future in the field. As many plant and microbial biology majors go on to graduate school to pursue paths in academia, government or the private sector, you will be highly qualified and well prepared for your future.

As a student in the plant and microbial biology major you’ll follow one of two tracks. If you’re primarily interested in environmental biology, evolution, or other aspects of whole organisms, there’s a track made for you, while the other track will be perfect for you if you are interested in molecular, cellular, and development biology. While studying plant and microbial biology, you’ll be guaranteed experience in a research laboratory, as long as you show satisfactory progress toward your degree and make arrangements by the middle of your junior year.

Student Experiences
Feature: Kevin Dorn

Dr. Kevin Dorn is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Plant Biology and works on the development of genetic and genomic resources for field pennycress and intermediate wheatgrass. Kevin is broadly interested in the translation of basic research to alternative crop species and the use of new genomic tools to improve plant breeding. Additionally, Kevin is passionate about science education at both the K-12 and post-secondary levels. Learn more: http://cbs.umn.edu/marks-lab/people/dorn

Study Abroad Options

Learn about study abroad options for Plant Biology majors at https://umabroad.umn.edu/students/maps/cbs/.

You might also explore

Horticulture Minor
Plant Science
Biology

Associated Careers
Agricultural Engineers, Agricultural and Food Scientists, Biological Scientists, Environmental Scientists, Floral Designers, Landscape Architects, Landscapers and Groundskeepers, Pharmacists, Science Technicians, Research, Education