When you study food systems in CFANS you’ll learn all about the systems that feed the human population, encompassing an interconnected set of biological, technological, economic, and social activities. These activities include farming, food processing and manufacturing, food distribution and retailing, food consumption, and managing post-consumption food waste. The food systems major will provide you with the knowledge, problem-solving skills and leadership ability to address complex and often controversial challenges and opportunities in food systems. This major is a great fit if you’re guided by a desire to create systems that are increasingly sustainable in environmental, economic and social terms, in diverse contexts and at different scales.

The core courses in the food systems major begin with an orientation to food systems followed by a three-course core sequence that provides a basic understanding of the structure and interactions within food systems, introduces techniques for life cycle analysis of the outcomes, impacts and sustainability of food systems and explores conventional, sustainable and organic examples of production systems for food plants. The core course sequence culminates in a capstone experience aimed at solving real-world problems in local community food systems, and involvement in future systems design and visioning.

You will chose from one of three existing tracks of required courses: organic and local food production, agroecology, or consumers and markets, or you can work in collaboration with an adviser, to develop an individually tailored coursework track.
Study Abroad Options

Learn more about CFANS study abroad options.

You might also explore

Agricultural Education
Agricultural and Food Business Management
Food Systems

Associated Careers

Agricultural and Food Scientists, Biological Scientists, Chemists and Materials Scientists, Dietetic Technicians, Dietitians and Nutritionists, Industrial Production Managers