When you study Food Systems in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences 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.

Tracks in this major include:

- Organic and Local Food Production
• Agroecology
• Consumer and Markets
• Individualized Studies

Student Experiences

There are more than 900+ student groups that you can get involved in at the University of Minnesota. Specifically, our CFANS student groups are designed to help you gain real-world experience and meet fellow students who share your interests.

Some groups that are popular with students in this major include:

• Horticulture Club
• U Students Like Good Food
• Gopher Crops and Soils Club
• West Bank Community Garden/Students for Sustainability

Study Abroad Options

More than 250 study abroad programs in 70 countries are available to University of Minnesota students. Study abroad can offer a global perspective on your studies in agriculture. 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, Community Garden Program Managers, Dietetic Technicians, Dietitians and Nutritionists, Farm-to-School Coordinators, Farmers Market Coordinators, Food Systems Educators, Local Food Entrepreneurs, Industrial Production Managers, International Agriculture Developers, Policy Managers, Public Health Specialists