Food Science

The department's professional activities include teaching, research, and extension functions. The program provides an educational, research, and informational center in food science for North Carolina and the nation. The department also houses two research centers, the Southeast Dairy Foods Research Center and the Center for Advanced Processing and Packaging Studies. Course offerings and research opportunities are available in the following areas: chemistry-biochemistry, engineering, microbiology, nutrition and processing technology. The strategic directions of the faculty and staff are in the areas of: food safety and foodborne disease prevention; food manufacturing and entrepreneurship; education innovation and effectiveness; and, foods for health and well-being.

Degrees earned will be distributed as: "Master of Food Science", "Master of Science", and "Doctor of Philosophy" without research area specifications.

Admissions Requirements
To be admitted, a student should be a graduate of an accredited program in food science or the equivalent. Graduates of other majors can be admitted but will have additional course requirements. The best qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students. We only recommend admission to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree if a member of our research faculty is willing to advise the student’s research. Applications from qualified candidates will be reviewed by faculty seeking research students; conversely applicants may contact faculty whose research specialty is of interest to inquire about available positions. Admission to the Master of Food Science will be based on the qualifications of the applicants.

Master's Degree Requirements
A Master's program must include courses from at least two of the following categories: chemistry-biochemistry, engineering, microbiology, nutrition and processing technology. The M. S. in Food Science requires 30 credit hours of course work and research. The Master of Food Science requires 36 credit hours of course work, including an independent project and professional skills.

Doctoral Degree Requirements
A doctoral program must include courses from at least three of the categories listed above (or equivalent courses at another university). Total course credits will vary depending on the needs of the student and the requirements of the Graduate School. All doctoral students are required to pass a departmentally administered written preliminary exam, designed to evaluate a Ph.D. student’s general knowledge and comprehension of food science.

Student Financial Support
Graduate assistantships and other forms of student aid available to students in this program are described elsewhere in the Graduate Catalog. Admission does not guarantee availability of financial support.

Other Relevant Information
Students are encouraged to make personal contact with individual faculty whose research program is of interest to them.

Degrees
- Food Science (MR) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/food-science/food-science-mr/)
- Food Science (MS) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/food-science/food-science-ms/)
- Food Science (PhD) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/food-science/food-science-phd/)
- Food Science (Minor) (http://catalog.ncsu.edu/graduate/agriculture-life-sciences/food-science/food-science-minor/)

Faculty