Bachelor of Arts in Land, Farming and Community (LAND) Nothing is more basic to human life than food. And for more than a half-century the disconnect between the business of production, and the interests of consumers, grows wider and wider. The Bachelor of Arts in Land, Farming and Community provides students with an in-depth understanding and expertise about the food we eat, how it’s produced, delivered and processed. Plus all the values and issues underpinning these activities.

Through a combination of classroom-based and experiential on-site learning, students gain an appreciation of the science and art of agriculture. Students will also explore the benefits and limits of small-scale, sustainable farming compared to diversified, large-scale food production—all within the context of a Jesuit education. Xavier’s land, farming and community degree (LAND) offers students the opportunity to become stewards of healthy, productive soils, communities and regions.

The Xavier Advantage

▶ The College of Arts and Sciences challenges students to develop an integrated understanding of humanity and the environment.
▶ Network with top professionals in farming, food production, land management and more.
▶ Gain real-world experience working with community leaders, city-level organizations, political coalitions or cause-focused groups.
▶ Complete a capstone research project under the supervision of a professional mentor, Xavier professor or other expert.
▶ Opportunities for agricultural internships focused on independent and entrepreneurial farming.

Xavier graduates in land, farming and community can find fulfilling career opportunities in:

▶ Creating public policy for sustainable food production
▶ Directing local food distribution networks
▶ Planning community-supported agriculture
▶ Advanced degrees and teaching opportunities in land management
▶ Public education, outreach and advocacy

Learn more [www.xavier.edu/cas](http://www.xavier.edu/cas)
Ask us [xuadmit@xavier.edu](mailto:xuadmit@xavier.edu)
Visit campus [www.xavier.edu/visit](http://www.xavier.edu/visit)
THE PROGRAM

Graduates of the Land, Farming and Community major will be knowledgeable about the dependence of human societies on the rest of the natural world and thoughtfully proactive in response to the demographic, economic and environmental challenges we face and the opportunities they create.

They will have the analytical and practical skills essential to developing imaginative and constructive responses to the demographic, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities of our era with a variety and depth of food production, processing and distribution skills. Graduates will also have the personal and political skills necessary to mobilize public opinion and government power to facilitate sustainable food production.

The final three semesters of the degree program are spent largely in the field, either practicing agriculture or working in a related industry in a Land, Farming and Community Practicum. The Practicum is an 18-month internship at a farm or urban garden that would allow students to experience the scope of a full growing season and to establish relationships with local farmers.

RESOURCES

Through a matching program, students will be partnered with interested farms for a practicum. The other component of the last three semesters is the Land, Farming and Community Capstone course. In these courses, majors meet together once a week and engage in a research project on their local farm site with the assistance of both faculty at Xavier and the farmers at their site.

These courses would exemplify the interplay of science and art in agriculture. Students would be working almost full-time at a farm while sharing with others their experiences and knowledge. Invariably, these experiences, combined knowledge and practice, will differ, sometimes substantially, from one farm and farmer to another. Thus, students will understand, from Capstone discussions and research, the subtle interplay of science and art in successfully growing food.

Students will also engage in long-term research projects on their farming site each semester. Depending on the interests of the students, the project might be an oral history of the farm or a study of the chemical nutrient recycling achieved through on-site composting.

OUTCOMES

At least 3.1 million Americans are employed in green jobs, a sector that now accounts for about 2.4 percent of the nation’s total employment.

A 2008 report for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Climate Protection Center projected 2.5 million new green jobs in the energy sector of the U.S. economy alone by 2018 (330% more than estimated to exist at the time the report was issued).

Total projected new jobs by 2028 was 3.5 million (+466% vs. 2008) with an additional 4.2 million new jobs by 2038 (+560%).

For the metropolitan areas of Ohio, the projected growth was higher than the national average, an increase of 780% in new green jobs by 2038, and the Cincinnati metro region had almost 800% projected growth.

In 2012, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Kathleen Merrigan noted there is a need for young farmers as many current farmers are near retirement with an average age of 57 years old.

In Cincinnati and elsewhere, the demand for locally produced food (for farmers’ markets, restaurants, and supermarkets) outstrips supply. Urban areas are ideal locations for growing more local food. The local food scene is vibrant in Cincinnati with dozens of community gardens, hundreds of backyard gardeners, many food entrepreneurs, and a number of operational farms just minutes from the city.

Graduates of the LAND degree will be able to continue training or education in farming or food-related fields or to find work in a variety of food-related industries, such as education and outreach programs, governmental and non-governmental organizations, farmers’ markets, and policy work.

According to scholars in traditional agricultural programs at large state universities, food and agriculture related companies are seeking graduates with the soft skills that a liberal arts education emphasizes.
SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS—GOING GREEN FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Integrating sustainability into campus operations aligns with Xavier’s Jesuit tradition and promotes the ongoing welfare our students, institution, our community and even our world. With a physical infrastructure that’s less costly to run and more resilient, the lower our carbon footprint, the more interdisciplinary and problem-focused our educational efforts.

The Hoff Academic Quad, Conaton Learning Commons, Smith Hall, Fenwick Hall and the Central Utility Plant are designed and constructed to meet or exceed US Green Building Council’s LEED silver standards. Here are just a few of the practical benefits:

- Xavier’s energy and water consumption has decreased by an average of 18%
- Four undergraduate degrees focusing on sustainability, one minor, and scores of classes across all three colleges that include sustainability issues
- Several students each year are awarded Sustainability Student Intern fellowships to work with the Sustainability Committee and students on projects across campus

SUSTAINABLE CINCINNATI

Cincinnati is not just a great American city, but also takes pride in a shrinking carbon footprint. Here are just a few examples:

- 100 percent Renewable Electricity—By switching to renewable energy, Cincinnati’s carbon footprint was reduced by approximately 550,000 tons per year. That’s the equivalent of taking 104,000 cars off the road.
- A Regional Sustainability Alliance, Green Umbrella, brings citizens, professionals, teachers, students and others together through working teams to promote sustainability across the region in areas like energy, local food, and outdoor recreation.
- Home Energy Retrofits—The Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance completed energy retrofits on more than 1,000 buildings across the region saving its clients more than $500,000 per year on energy bills
- Nine commercial projects and 45 residential projects were LEED buildings were certified in Cincinnati in 2012.
- In 2012, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Cincinnati as a bronze level bicycle friendly community.

CORE CURRICULUM

The foundation of Xavier’s success is its commitment to its Jesuit heritage. The Core Curriculum embodies Xavier’s mission and philosophy of education and serves as a valuable foundation for all undergraduate students. Within the Core, the four-course Ethics/Religion and Society (E/RS) Focus fosters students’ understanding of socially significant issues through study of the humanities, especially literature, philosophy and theology, as well as the social and natural sciences. Along with courses in their major, Xavier students also take Core courses in cultural diversity, English composition, fine arts, foreign language, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, science, social science and theology.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Core Curriculum: Minimum 64 credit hours

Bachelor of Arts in Land, Farming and Community: 125 hours of required courses in the BA in the Land, Farming and Community major.

Xavier is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Information in this brochure is correct as of 11/12.