

Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture

Cameron Faustman, Ph.D., *Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Director, Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture*

Patricia J. Jepson, Ph.D., *Director, Academic Advisory Center*

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture confers Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Animal Science and Ornamental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management. This two-year program of technical and applied education is only available at the Storrs campus. The School was established in 1941 by the University of Connecticut through a bequest from Mr. Ratcliffe Hicks of Tolland, Connecticut.

Students include recent high school graduates as well as adults who are interested in continuing education or a career change. Course work offers a balance between technical and theoretical aspects of each subject with emphasis on hands-on learning.

Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture graduates have the skills and knowledge to enter challenging and exciting careers. They are highly qualified for competitive positions and often manage or own businesses and production operations. Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture graduates can also continue their education and pursue baccalaureate or higher degrees.

Admission Requirements. Admission is open to qualified graduates of approved secondary schools. For required courses and units, please refer to the Admission section of this *Catalog*. Foreign language study is not required for admission into the two-year program; college preparatory level courses are recommended, but not required. Applicants must submit a University of Connecticut Admission Application, high school transcript, Scholastic Assessment Test scores, and a personal statement describing their interest, experience, and career goals in the field of agriculture. Applicants who are not graduates of a secondary school must present a copy of a State Equivalency Diploma and a personal statement.

Students from some New England states may be eligible to enroll in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture at a reduced tuition rate through the New England Regional Student Program. Eligibility for Associate degree programs in Animal Science and Ornamental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management are described in the Admissions section of this *Catalog*.

Non-Degree Study. Individuals interested in obtaining specific skills and knowledge relating to the many diverse areas of plant and animal science may also register for Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture courses as non-degree students through the Center for Continuing Studies at the University of Connecticut. Non-degree students do not have to apply for formal admission to the University.

Scholarships

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture offers Heritage Scholarships for qualified individuals entering the two-year program. Selected applicants receive up to \$1,200 toward educational expenses in their first semester. Based on academic performance, scholarships may be renewed for three additional semesters.

Incoming students are automatically reviewed for Heritage Scholarships prior to entering the program. Selection is based on academic and career-related accomplishments, and potential for continued success.

Many other scholarships in Agriculture and Natural Resources are available to Ratcliffe Hicks students, for more information please see: <http://www.myagrn.uconn.edu>

Associate Degree Curricula

Majors. The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students major in Ornamental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management or Animal Science. Ornamental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management majors may concentrate in turfgrass management,

floriculture, or nursery management and landscaping. Graduates pursue careers in golf course management, floriculture, landscape and grounds maintenance, greenhouse and garden center operations, nursery management, interiorscaping, park and land management or public horticulture.

Animal science majors focus on equine studies or production agriculture, including both dairy and livestock. Graduates seek positions in the horse industry, production enterprises, animal health, breeding and genetics, nutrition, meat science and food handling, or related service industries.

Faculty Advisors. Faculty advisors are assigned to students upon entry into the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture according to a student's major and area of special interest. Advisors assist students in the selection of appropriate courses and help them develop an individualized program that will meet educational and career goals. The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Director's Office and Academic Advisory Center provide additional support to faculty advisors and Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students.

Registration. Ratcliffe Hicks students are restricted primarily to Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture courses, numbered 0000 - 0999. Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students may register for up to 19 credits of 1000-level courses including NRME 1000, 1235; NUSC 1165; BIOL 1102 and the courses listed in the "Associate Degree Requirements" section below.

No more than 19 credits of 1000-level course work may be used toward the Associate of Applied Science degree. Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students must have approval of the advisor and Director to register for 1000-level courses not listed below. Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students may not register for 2000-level or above courses or skill code courses (W, Q) unless approved by the Director. Inappropriate registration may result in administrative changes to a student's schedule or credit restrictions toward graduation requirements.

Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture students who have earned at least 24 credits and are not on scholastic probation may place a course, for no more than four credits, on Pass/Fail. Credits earned from a Pass/Fail course may be used toward the total credit requirement for the Associate of Applied Science degree, but can not be used to meet any other graduation requirement.

Associate Degree Requirements

Upon recommendation of the faculty, the degree of Associate of Applied Science is awarded by vote of the Board of Trustees to students who have met the following requirements: (1) earned a total of 64 degree credits; (2) earned at least a 2.0 grade point average for the total number of calculable credits for which they have registered; (3) passed all courses required by the faculty of the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture; and (4) earned at least 32 credits at the University of Connecticut in Ratcliffe Hicks courses numbered 0011 - 0999.

The University General Education Requirements for baccalaureate students do not apply to students in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture. All students must pass the following courses in order to earn the Associate of Applied Science Degree:

Freshman Seminar:

SAAG 250

Writing:

ENGL 1004, 1010, or 1011 (based on SAT scores)

Mathematics:

SAAG 240 or MATH 1011Q

Students with higher level math ability may be eligible for a substitution or exemption for SAAG 240 based on Math SAT scores and/or performance on the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Math Proficiency Test.

Arts and Humanities:

One course from the following;

ART 1000; DRAM 1101, 1110; FREN 1171; GEOG/URBN 1200; GERM 1171; HIST 1201, 1501, 1502; ILCS 1158; MUSI 1001, 1004; PHIL 1102, 1104; POLS

1002; WS 1104; SPAN 1001, 1002; FREN 1161, or 1162 (or other 1000-level course approved by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture director)

Social Science:

POLS 1602 and

One additional course from the following:

ANTH 1000, 1006; ARE 1110, 1150 (SARE 450); ECON 1000, 1201, or 1202; GEOG 1000, 1700; HDFS 1070; POLS 1202, 1207, 1402; SOCI 1001, 1251, or 1501 (or other 1000-level course approved by the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture director)

Other Alternatives:

Students may substitute COMM 1100; NUSC 1167; PLSC 1125 for the additional course requirement (not for POLS 1602) in the Social Sciences category above.

Requirements for the Major

Science and computer technology requirements for the A.A.S. degree are incorporated into courses required for the major.

Major Requirements

Animal Science Core

SAAS 101, 111, 112, 113, 121; SAPB 301

Horticulture Core

Ornamental Horticulture and Turfgrass Management majors may select options in Ornamental Horticulture or Turfgrass Management.

Ornamental Horticulture

SAPL 100, 110, 120, 300, 410, 550, 640, 750, 800 or 810, 840

Turfgrass Management

SAPL 110, 120, 300, 750, 800, 840, 991

Area of Specialization for Both Majors

In addition to the general education requirements and the major core requirements listed above, students must complete at least 12 credits of course work related to an area of specialization within their major. These courses must be Ratcliffe Hicks courses numbered 0000 - 0999 and must be approved by the student's advisor.

Internship and Independent Study Courses. Students may apply no more than six credits of these courses toward the minimum graduation requirement of 64 earned credits.

Plan of Study. Students should work closely with their advisors to select appropriate courses. Each student should prepare a tentative plan of study with an academic advisor as early as possible, outlining all courses.

A final plan of study, approved by the major advisor and the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture Director, must be filed with the Director of the School and the Degree Auditor no later than the end of the fourth week of classes of the semester in which a student expects to graduate.

Scholastic Standards

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture follows the same academic regulations and procedures regarding scholastic standards and probation as all other schools and colleges of the University except: first semester Ratcliffe Hicks students are subject to dismissal from the University if their semester grade point average is less than 1.2.

Supplemental Information

Transfer to Four-Year Program. Upon completion of the A.A.S. degree, students may apply to transfer into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources or other baccalaureate programs of the University. Students should contact the Director's Office, W.B. Young Building, Room 211, to obtain an application and verify procedures. The Ratcliffe Hicks School will review applications for transfer and submit recommendations to the Transfer Admissions Office for final decisions. Admission decisions will be based primarily on courses completed in the School and earned grade point average (minimum 2.7). Students transferring to a baccalaureate program at the University of Connecticut will receive transfer credit for all credits earned with a grade of C or higher, except that no credit will be given for any course graded Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory, or for SAAG 240, Applied Mathematics.

Field Trips and Transportation Costs. Many courses require off-campus field trips. Students should budget money for participation.

University Fees and Expenses. For fees and expenses, see statement under Undergraduate Fees and Expenses.

Housing Regulations. Students who desire housing will be assigned rooms in residence halls with baccalaureate students. See the section devoted to Residence Halls under General Information for additional information.