



Doctor of Plant Health

A new professional program for plant practitioners

Offered at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln



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www.dph.unl.edu



Doctor of Plant Health.

You may not have heard the title before. This new program is only the second of its kind in the entire country. So, what – or who – is a Doctor of Plant Health?

A Doctor of Plant Health (DPH) applies science as part diagnostician and part detective when it comes to figuring out what is negatively affecting a plant's health, and how to best mitigate that. Add a third part management developer – as in developing plant management systems that maximize the system's economic, environmental and social sustainability. Do all three by integrating broad education received across several disciplines to diagnose and solve plant health problems and develop management systems, and you have it.

Doctor of Plant Health. That could be you, with the knowledge and expertise to both practice

preventative plant health care, and to figure out all the pieces of the puzzle as to what troubles a plant – and there usually are several – then decide how to best rectify the situation. Your impact could be everything from saving one plant to saving a crop that feeds a nation.

Yes, it's important work.

DPH practitioners have a broad interest in plant sciences and all the factors that affect the growth and production of healthy plants in the various systems where plants grow. The DPH program emphasizes prevention, diagnosis and management of both biotic and abiotic plant health challenges. Within the program's broad-based curriculum you can choose to emphasize areas such as field crops, specialty crops, ornamentals, turf grass, greenhouse crops, landscapes, forestry, organics, regulatory issues or other professional interest areas.

Worldwide, there's a growing need – and a growing demand – to address plant health issues in a multidisciplinary manner. Industry, government and others want to hire people who can see and understand both the interrelatedness of all the factors that affect plants, and how to optimize plant health.

Seldom does just one factor affect a plant's health. Most often several interacting factors will be involved. Each factor has its own concerns, and in turn may make the plant vulnerable to other problems. Doctors of Plant Health will be in the forefront of detecting, diagnosing and managing these plant issues.

The DPH is a professional degree focused on developing plant practitioners. It is an intensive program that requires 120 credit hours for graduation. Twenty of these credits will come from a series of internships or practicums where

you will have opportunities to work in various settings, bringing your multidisciplinary skills to bear on actual problems.

The primary prerequisite for entrance to the program is a B.A. or B.S. degree in a biological or related field. If you enter with a master's degree in one of the core disciplines in the program (agronomy, horticulture, entomology, plant pathology, soil science or weed science), you will receive credit toward graduate course work taken.

You can expect to earn your DPH degree in three to four years, depending on your background and course load. Information on recommended undergraduate course work can be found at www.dph.unl.edu. Talk with the program director concerning prerequisites or credit for previous graduate work.



Curriculum:

The DPH curriculum is broad based, with significant core requirements in all areas of plant science:

- agronomy
- entomology
- horticulture
- plant pathology
- soil science
- weed science

Visit www.dph.unl.edu for curriculum details.

Why Nebraska?

Nebraska is a tremendous place to study. Not only will you be part of the welcoming College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources community, home to some of the most-cited agricultural scientists in the world, you also will study with and be advised by members of that faculty.

Plus, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, of which

this program is a part, believes strongly in a seamless continuum of science that reaches from the most fundamental discoveries through application, taught in our classrooms and throughout Nebraska through extension education. The creative synergy is tremendous when scientists with expertise and interest along this continuum collaborate.

Studying plant health here allows you to further your education by taking advantage of the extensive diversity of crops, soils and environments that occur across Nebraska and its surrounding states.

There are four major ecoregions across Nebraska. They range from the western edge of primary U.S. corn and soybean production through the semi-arid High Plains. Irrigated and nonirrigated cropland is abundant, as are millions of acres of grassland. The environmental parameters that define the variability across Nebraska

are representative of countless areas across North America and in numerous developed and developing countries around the globe.

In 2008, Nebraska was first in the nation in Great Northern bean and popcorn production; second in pinto bean and proso millet production; third in corn for grain and grain sorghum production; fifth in soybean production; with all hay and winter wheat production in the top nine. Emerging areas are in viticulture, greenhouse crops and biofuels.

Besides its classrooms on campus, Nebraska has research and extension centers located across the state representing the different ecoregions and different cropping systems. Students will have a wide array of internship opportunities in Nebraska, nationwide and internationally. Each offers different opportunities to learn.

What careers await?

The training and talents of entrepreneurial DPH graduates will allow countless career opportunities to work for existing businesses or create their own business opportunities. A DPH degree will prepare graduates for careers in the seed and chemical industries, as consultants (either independent or affiliated with agricultural or other plant-related business) and university extension. Interest in graduates has also come from government agencies, such as EPA and USDA, that deal with plant biosecurity or invasive species and other agencies that deal with plants and plant health. You can put the knowledge gained here to many uses.



How to apply:

You will find the application instructions and deadlines for the Doctor of Plant Health program on the Web at www.dph.unl.edu.

Program financing:

DPH students are responsible for funding themselves through the course of the program. Nebraska residents pay the in-state graduate tuition rate. Non-resident students have been granted a waiver and will

be charged only 125 percent of the in-state graduate tuition rate.

Financial assistance through fellowships and assistantships is available to help defray the cost of the program. Additional financial support will be available through part-time work, paid internships, student loans and a combination of these funding mechanisms.

For more information on program costs and financial assistance opportunities, talk to the program director or visit www.dph.unl.edu.

For more information:

For more information regarding the program, visit www.dph.unl.edu or contact the program director:

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Your future.

If you've ever thought you might like to help feed the world, or keep its food supply safe, or make it more liveable; if you enjoy plants and want to work with them; if you like to figure out how all the pieces of plant management puzzles fit together into a whole, and then better the whole; if you are looking for a career that will provide intriguing puzzles each step of the way, check out the new Doctor of Plant Health program. It just may be what you're looking for to plant your feet firmly on the road to a fascinating, satisfying, successful career.