

PATHWAYS MINORS

CIVIC AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

What is it?



The Civic Agriculture and Food Systems minor embodies a commitment to developing and strengthening an **economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable agriculture and food system**. This interdisciplinary minor provides students with knowledge and skills to promote academic enhancement, personal growth, and civic engagement through reflection and **experiential practice to address and solve 'real-world' problems**. The minor provides opportunity for interdisciplinary and community-based learning, and active engagement in and outside the classroom.

Why do it?

Minor **cornerstones**:

- Food security/sovereignty
- Civic engagement/democratic participation
- Strong local economies
- Ecological stewardship
- Healthy people/communities
- Collaborative teaching and experiential learning



Who is it for?

The minor is for students in any major interested in the minor cornerstones, particularly **students looking to integrate knowledge and skills in civic agriculture and food systems** into personal, civic, and professional practice.

Pathways Core Concepts

- 1a - Advanced/Applied Discourse
- 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences
- 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences
- 6d - Critique and Practice in Design & the Arts

Pathways Integrative Concepts

Ethical Reasoning
Intercultural and Global Awareness

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Requirements

The 18-credit Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Pathways minor has 4 required agriculture and life sciences courses (3 credits each).

Required courses

ALS 2204: Introduction to Civic Agriculture
ALS 3404: Ecological Agriculture: Theory and Practice
ALS 4204: Concepts in Community Food Systems
ALS 4214: Capstone: Civic Agriculture and Food Systems



Elective courses

Students select the remaining 6 credits from a list of cross-disciplinary College of Agriculture and Life Sciences departmental courses that complement the minor. For a complete list of elective courses, consult the checksheet at <https://registrar.vt.edu/graduation-multi-brief/index1.html>.



“The minor challenged my understanding of the world around me and encouraged a more thoughtful, transformative way of thinking. With the support of the Civic Ag Learning Community, I now realize my passions for food justice and for community development work.”

Caylin Stewart, Ag Leadership & Community Education, May 2018