

Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture

Suman Singha, Ph.D., *Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Director, Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture*
Patricia J. Jepson, M.A., *Academic Advisory Center Director*

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture is authorized to confer Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Animal Science and Horticulture. 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.

The School provides an excellent opportunity for students with a variety of educational backgrounds and experiences to further their education in the areas of horticulture and animal science. 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.

RHSA 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. Many RHSA graduates continue their education and pursue baccalaureate or higher degrees.

Admission Requirements. Admission is open to qualified graduates of approved secondary schools. See the Admission section of this *Catalog* for required courses and units. 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 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 Horticulture 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 RHSA courses as non-degree students through the Office of Extended and Continuing Education 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 up to ten Heritage Scholarships for qualified individuals entering the two-year program. Selected applicants receive up to \$1,000 toward educational expenses in their first semester. Based on academic performance, Scholarships may be renewed for three additional semesters. Continuing students with outstanding academic performance may also be considered for Heritage Scholarships.

Incoming students are reviewed for Heritage Scholarships prior to entering the program. Selection is based on academic and career-related accomplishments, and potential for continued success. Applications and additional information are available from the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, 1376 Storrs Road, U-90, Storrs, CT 06269-4090.

Many other scholarships in Agriculture and Natural Resources are available to Ratcliffe Hicks students.

Associate Degree Curricula

Majors. RHSA students major in Horticulture or Animal Science. Horticulture majors in RHSA may concentrate on floriculture or nursery management and landscaping. Graduates pursue a wide array of careers in floriculture, landscape and grounds maintenance, greenhouse and garden center operations, nursery management, interiorscaping, park and land management or botanical gardening.

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.

Registration. Ratcliffe Hicks students are restricted primarily to RHSA courses, numbered 1-99. The following 100-level courses have been pre-approved for all RHSA students:

ENGL 104

One of the following for the Literature/Arts Requirement: ART 135, DRAM 101, DRAM 110, FREN 171, MUSI 191, or WS 104

One of the following for the Natural Science Requirement: BIOL 100 or 102

No more than 13 credits of 100-level course work (Including courses listed above) may be used toward the AAS degree. RHSA students **must** have approval of advisor and director to register for 100-level courses not listed above. RHSA students may **not** register for 200-level courses or skill code courses (W, Q, C). Inappropriate registration may result in administrative changes to a student's schedule or credit restrictions toward graduation requirements.

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 been 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 1-99.

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

A final plan of study, approved by the major advisor and the RHSA 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.

General Education Requirements for Both Majors

Mathematics and Computers

SAAG 090 Agricultural Calculations¹

SAAG 001 Computers in Agriculture

Humanities and Social Science

APOL 012 Government and the Citizen or POLS 173 Introduction to American Political Process

ENGL 104 Basic Writing²

SARE 050 Principles of Agricultural & Resource Economics

One course in either literature or arts as approved by the Advisor and Director

Natural Science

Two of the following courses:

SAAS 004 Anatomy & Physiology of Domestic Animals³

SAPL 003 Introduction to Plant Science⁴

SAPL 022 Introduction to Soil Science

BIOL 100 General Biology

BIOL 102 Foundations of Biology

Major Requirements

Animal Science Core

SAAS 004 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals³

SAAS 005 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals

SAAS 006 Nutrition and Feeding of Livestock

SAAS 007 Animal Breeding and Genetics

SAAS 020 Introduction to Animal Science

SAPB 015 Health and Disease Management of Animals and Poultry

¹ The RHSA math placement exam is required to determine proficiency in mathematics.

² Substitutions may be considered based on SAT scores or placement exams.

³ SAAS 004 may be used in meeting both the general education requirements and the Animal Science core requirements.

Horticulture Core

SAPL 003	Introduction to Plant Science ⁴
SAPL 022	Introduction to Soil Science
SAPL 025	Greenhouse Operations
SAPL 041	Plant Pest Control
SAPL 042	Integrated Pest Management
SAPL 062	Plant Propagation

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 approved by their advisor.

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

Scholastic Standards

The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture follows the same academic regulations and procedures regarding scholastic standards and probation for Lower Division students as all other schools and colleges of the University with the following exceptions: The Pass/Fail option is not authorized for students in the school and first semester students are subject to dismissal from the University as deficient in scholarship if their semester grade point average is less than 1.2.

Supplemental Information

Transfer to Four-Year Program. Upon completion of the associate degree program, students may petition 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 a recommendation to the Transfer Admissions Office. Admissions decisions will be based primarily on courses completed in the School and earned grade point average (minimum 2.5). Students transferring to a baccalaureate program at the University of Connecticut will receive transfer

⁴ SAPL 003 may be used in meeting both the general education requirements and the Horticulture core requirements.

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 90, Agricultural Calculations.

Tech Prep Program. The Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, in partnership with participating high schools, offers an Agricultural Education Tech Prep program. In Tech Prep, high school students earn credits toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in either Animal Science or Horticulture. Courses include mathematics and science, as well as specific technical subjects in animal science, plant science, and other related disciplines.

Courses and credits for the Tech Prep program are determined cooperatively by the Ratcliffe Hicks School and participating high schools. Tech Prep students who are admitted into the Associate of Applied Science degree program may receive up to 12 credits of approved course work from high school.

For more information on the Agricultural Education Tech Prep program, please contact: Director, Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture, University of Connecticut, 1376 Storrs Road, U-90, Storrs, CT 06269-4090, (860) 486-2920

Special Facilities. Ratcliffe Hicks students utilize the land, animal, and equipment resources of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The College maintains farms, orchards, greenhouses, and nursery operations. Horticulture students gain invaluable experience at the Burr Teaching Nursery, Floriculture Greenhouses, and in other laboratory and field facilities. Animal Science students work with dairy, livestock, horses, and poultry. See the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources section for more information.

Computer Laboratory. A computer laboratory is available for student use in Room 108 of the Ratcliffe Hicks Building. Instructors schedule classes in the facility when appropriate, and the room is open additional hours for individual student use.

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

Extracurricular Activities. Students in the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture are eligible to participate in all University of Connecticut activities for which they are qualified, except NCAA competition. Organizations and activities of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources combine the interests and talents of both the two-year and four-year students in events such as the Horticulture Show, Little International Livestock and Horse Show, and the men's and women's polo teams.

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.