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Critical Agriculture Studies & Agroecology, B.A.

In this innovative, hands-on B.A. program, students transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, utilizing the knowledge of the arts, humanities and sciences, to tackle the most pressing social problems of our time. CASA students explore how agriculture is shaped by histories of power, and cultivate the knowledge and skills needed to imagine and enact just ecological futures. Become a leader in transforming food systems, healing connections to land, and remaking relationships between people and the more-than-human world.

Experience Your Learning

Studying agriculture at Cal Poly Humboldt means gaining practical farming experience in regenerative systems unlike anywhere else. Farm and field learning experiences are built into your core major coursework, and you will be empowered to curate your own vision and purpose.

The program community is centered around an innovative demonstration farm site in the Arcata bottoms where students design, implement, and evaluate real agricultural systems, individually and in teams.

Courses connect soil, health equity and food justice, exploring topics like BIPOC foodways, climate justice, decolonization, and community health.

Students partner with local farms, gardens, and food justice organizations in Humboldt County's niche farm-to-table community through service learning placements tailored to your career goals.

Students help host agritourism events like a harvest festival, building leadership, outreach, and event planning skills to demonstrate how farms can be drivers of social change.

Did you know?

- Arcata is home to California's oldest continually operating farmers market in California. You will be immersed in a regional foodshed unlike any other.
- As a CASA student, you have the opportunity to work with faculty on their research and community projects, or develop your own.
- Special topics farm labs are offered every semester so students get out in the field learning everything from cut flower farming and medicinal herb cultivation to Indigenous agroforestry.



Academics & Options

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Emphasis Areas

Arts, Environmental Justice & Politics: Explore creative and critical approaches to agricultural and ecological systems change. Connect the dots between the local and the global, revealing how art, activism and policy provide avenues for transforming lives and imagining more just futures.

Food, Well-being & Culture: Students in this emphasis area deepen their engagement with nutrition, culinary practices, well-being and cultural resilience. Explore and innovate in fields connecting land, food and healing from therapeutic horticulture and care farming, to forest bathing and community gardens.

Ecologies & Practice: Develop your scientific foundation for regenerative agriculture through courses in plant ecology, rangeland management, soil science and more. Students in this emphasis area gain skills to solve problems and innovate in their farming careers.

Leadership & Sustainable Economies: This emphasis area is a curated set of course options to expand your entrepreneurial and leadership capacities. Dive into a range of topics from marketing, grant writing, and tribal governance to the legal and policy processes essential for building sustainable businesses, developing systems for supporting diverse farmers and leading structural change.



Careers

As a CASA graduate, you're prepared for roles that integrate regenerative agriculture, ecological science, social justice, and community leadership, empowering you to transform food systems and reimagine land stewardship for climate just futures.

- Farm manager
- Food Entrepreneur
- Farmers' Market Coordinator
- Agritourism Event Designer
- Climate Justice Activist
- School Garden Educator
- Conservation Planning Specialist
- Horticultural Therapist
- Health Equity Advocate
- Agricultural Policy Analyst
- Community Garden Coordinator
- Environmental Education Program Director
- Fiber & Plant Dye Artist

