TECHNICAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Prepare... yourself for a career in integrating life and engineering for systems in agriculture, food, environment, and energy, and to contribute to the world’s largest industry.
Shape your career in managing technology while learning practical skills.

The Technical Systems Management (TSM) curriculum combines the best of new technology for agriculture with sound business principles to help you become the technically competent business person you must be in today’s global economy. The program has an annual enrollment of 100+ students, providing ample opportunity for students to interact with the faculty. Administered by the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES), the TSM program can help you achieve your goals, whether you pursue your own business, a corporate job, a government specialty, or a research position.

Design a program that’s right for you.

The Technical Systems Management (TSM) program is a 4-year undergraduate degree program resulting in a bachelor of science degree. You will study technology systems, business and economics (including organization, operations, management, marketing, and sales), and oral and written communications.

You can tailor your program by selecting courses depending on your interests: students can study technology and mechanization (from production to processing to distribution), business and operations management, marketing and sales, speech, and business and technical writing.

Students planning to return to agricultural production or to serve as a manager for production systems select electives that are geared toward crop sciences, animal production, farm management, commodities marketing, and other production-based classes.

Students interested in environmental protection study soil, air, and water quality, irrigation and drainage, erosion control and the effective utilization of natural resources.

TSM Specializations

- Construction Management
- Mechanization, Marketing and Technology Management Systems
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Environmental Systems
- Production Systems
Create opportunities of a lifetime.

What is a degree in Technical Systems Management?

A Technical Systems Management (TSM) degree combines an understanding of the agricultural, biological, and physical sciences with managerial and technical skills. This understanding of science, systems management, and applications engineering can be applied to a career in the production and processing of food, fiber, feed, and fuel. Students focus on the application of engineering principles, the study of technology used in agriculture, and the integration of business management concepts in the food and agricultural industries. This degree is ideal for students interested in technical sales or technical management for a business involved in production, processing, or manufacturing.

What types of jobs are available for TSM graduates?

Technical Systems Management graduates are in great demand. Starting salaries are highly competitive and are among the highest of all College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) majors.

Employers and career opportunities are vast and varied. You could work for a major equipment company such as Deere & Co., a government agency such as the U.S. EPA, or a company like Kraft Foods. You may be the manager of a golf course or be involved in evaluating new products for a chemical company.
Explore opportunities to expand your education.

Internships

Summer or six-month internships with industry and government are available. Internships provide valuable, real world experience and networking opportunities for future employment. Students can also find part-time employment assisting faculty in the department.

Study Abroad

Students interested in studying abroad can take advantage of the many international programs offered by the University of Illinois. In recent years, students have studied in such countries as Australia, Belgium, Russia, and South Africa.

Student Club Activities

Leadership and communication skills are enhanced through participation in student club activities. The Illini Ag Mech Club sponsors company tours, plans banquets and social events, conducts service projects, raises money to support their activities, and helps the Department promote the profession.

The club also provides networking and career advancement opportunities. Students find their involvement in the Illini Ag Mech Club helps them develop valuable contacts within the industry in addition to developing friendships that last a lifetime.
Challenge yourself to a rewarding career.

Possible career opportunities in management, marketing, and service include:

- Ag Structures and Control Systems
- Appraiser
- Bank Manager
- Consultant
- Equipment Dealer
- Engineering Technician
- Farm Manager
- Golf Course Manager
- Grain Elevator Manager
- Grain Merchandising
- International Ag Development
- Irrigation/Drainage Specialist
- Marketing Representative
- Parts Operation Supervisor
- Plant Protection Supervisor
- Research and Development
- Service Manager/Representative
- Soil Conservationist
- Water Quality Specialist

TSM graduates are in demand, accepting management and marketing positions with such firms as:

- AGCO
- Arthur Anderson & Co.
- Archer, Daniels, Midland Co.
- Beatrice Butler Buildings
- Case IH
- Caterpillar Tractor, Inc.
- Cargill
- CNH Global
- Deere & Co.
- Environmental Protection Agency
- FMC Corp.
- Ford Motor Co.
- General Electric
- General Mills, Inc.
- General Motors Corp.
- Kraft General Foods
- Monsanto
- Morton Buildings, Inc.
- Pioneer Seed
- Pulte Construction
- Soil Conservation Service
- US Armed Forces
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Department of Agriculture
Reap the benefits of a world-class institution.

The facilities for the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering are among the finest in the nation. You’ll gain access to and experience with the most current equipment and technology in the field—the newest machines and hydraulic testing equipment and the latest in agricultural technology in fluid power, precision agriculture, chemical application systems, bioenvironmental systems and structures, and grain handling and processing. Our research and teaching farm is available for hands-on experiences with modern technology.

Located in the heartland of East Central Illinois, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in teaching and research. The University of Illinois is one of the best universities in the country. The U.S News & World Report College Guide ranks Illinois as one of the top public national universities. The Fiske’s Guide to Colleges gives Illinois a five-star rating in academics, while Money magazine ranks it as one of the best buys in higher education.

“The TSM program gave me the practical knowledge and the business skills to interface with management.”

– Jeff Ehrhardt, Graduate
Utilize resources to advance your career.

Financial Aid

Loans, scholarships, and grants are available from state, university, college, and private sources. Approximately sixty $4,000 scholarship packages are available to entering freshman in the College of ACES through the Jonathan Baldwin Turner merit-based scholarship program. Special application is required and interviews are held for qualifying applicants in the summer between their high school junior and senior years.

Advising and Placement

The faculty-to-student ratio assures that you will receive personal attention throughout your college career. When you enter the program, you will be assigned a faculty advisor who will help you with course scheduling, career planning and placement, and other concerns.

Admissions

Admission requirements for entering freshman are based on high school courses, end-of-year junior class rank, and ACT or SAT results. A statement of professional interest may also be required. Transfer students are evaluated on their grade point average earned in one or two years of transferable course work at another institution.
Need more information?

For more information regarding programs of study within the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering or to arrange for a visit and tour of the Department:

Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
338 Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building
1304 W. Pennsylvania Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 333-3570
Fax: (217) 244-0323
e-mail: abe@illinois.edu
abe.illinois.edu

For more information regarding applying and admissions:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
901 W. Illinois St.
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 333-0302
www.admissions.illinois.edu

For more information regarding financial aid available:

Office of Student Financial Aid
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Turner Student Services Building
610 E. John St.
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 333-0100
www.ofsa.illinois.edu

For more information regarding campus tours:

Campus Visitors Center
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Levis Faculty Center
919 W. Illinois St.
Urbana, Illinois 61801
(217) 333-0824
www.admissions.illinois.edu/visit/index.html

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