



College of Agriculture



239 plant	Class 4	18 control	144
240 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
241 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
149 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
150 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
232 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
233 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
234 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
235 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
236 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
237 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
238 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
239 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
240 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
241 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
242 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
243 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
244 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
245 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
246 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
247 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
248 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
249 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
250 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
251 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
252 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
253 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
254 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
255 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
256 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
257 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
258 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
259 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
260 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
261 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
262 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
263 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
264 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
265 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
266 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
267 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
268 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
269 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
270 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
271 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
272 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
273 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
274 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
275 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
276 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
277 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
278 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
279 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
280 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
281 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
282 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
283 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
284 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
285 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
286 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
287 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
288 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
289 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
290 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
291 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
292 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
293 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
294 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
295 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
296 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
297 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
298 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
299 plant	Class 2	20 control	144
300 plant	Class 2	20 control	144

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 -2025

Contents

3	_____	About the College
4	_____	Enrollment Data
5	_____	Graduation Data
6	_____	The Dean's Office
7	_____	Recruitment Efforts
8-11	_____	Retention Efforts
12	_____	Development
13	_____	Alumni Engagement
14	_____	What's Next
15	_____	Our Team

About the College



Our Mission

The LSU College of Agriculture provides innovative academic programs, fosters the pursuit of essential knowledge, advances collaborative research and drives outreach to solve local and global agricultural challenges.

Our Vision

With a sharp focus on research, extension and teaching, we are finding solutions and making advancements that will benefit future generations and establish a legacy of success.

Our Values

- Seek** intellectual and culturally diverse perspectives.
- Create** bold and transformative educational experiences.
- Enhance** the lives of others.
- Advance** the land-grant mission.
- Cultivate** a community of engaged partners.

Enrollment Data

from the 2024 - 2025 academic year

1,690



Undergraduate

Students¹

320



Graduate

Students¹



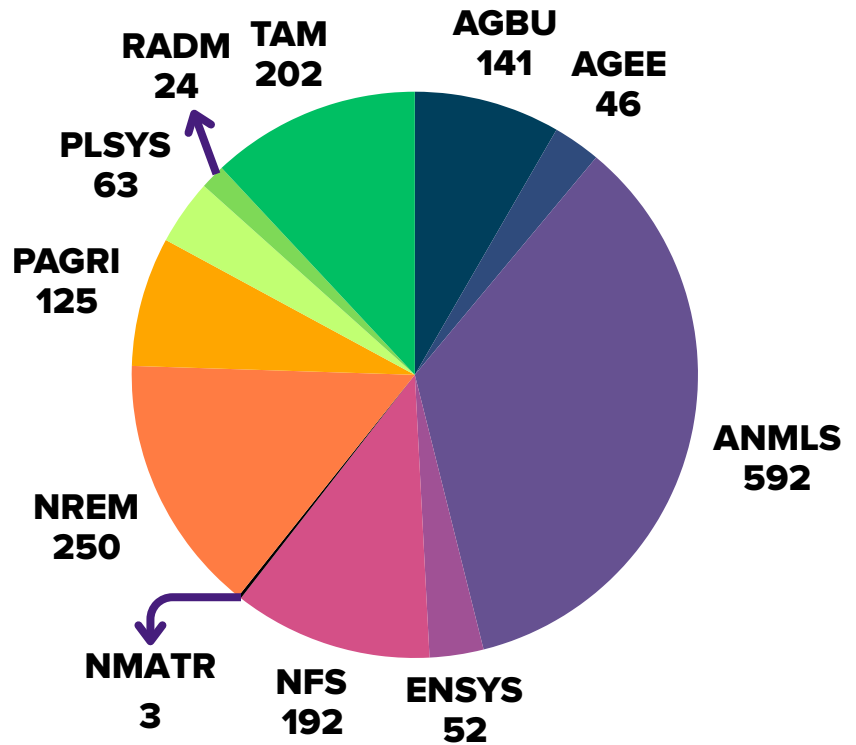
426

new students pursuing an Agriculture degree in fall 2024¹



114

students enrolled in the Agricultural Residential College (ARC) in fall 2024²

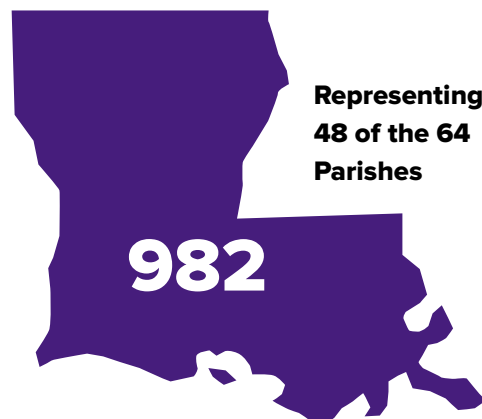


***Breakdown of undergraduate enrollment by curriculum**

*PAGRI - Pre-Agriculture, RADM - Restricted Admit, NMATR - Non-Matriculated Student

75% Female¹

25% Male



Louisiana Residents¹

¹This data was collected from "Enrollment at a Glance - Fall 2024" from the Office of Data and Strategic Analytics.

The number of Louisiana Residents does not include students from the Center for Advising and Counseling (UCAC).

²This data was collected from the "LSU Freshmen Profile - Fall and Continuing Summer Full-time Degree-seeking First-time Students By Residential College" from the Office of Data and Strategic Analytics

Graduation Data

from the 2024 - 2025 academic year



403

Degrees Conferred

334 bachelor's + **45** master's + **24** doctoral

48

University Latin Honors



6

College Honors



7

University Medalists



3

Engaged Citizens



7

Distinguished Communicators



9

Distinguished Researchers

GRADUATES REPORTED...*

38% completed an internship.

55% entered the college as a first-semester student.

95% felt their degree prepared them for the job market.

40% were involved in a student organization within the college.

86% plan to be employed full-time or enrolled in a graduate or professional school.

*This report is generated each semester from self-reported information gathered from both the LSU College of Agriculture's senior check-out survey and graduation survey for graduates in December 2024 and May 2025.

The Dean's Office

Purpose

The College of Agriculture Dean's Office provides support for students from their first campus experience to their last, with the specific goal of providing a welcoming environment where all students feel heard, supported and understood, as we work together to pave a pathway towards success for every student.



The Dean's Office in the College of Agriculture is made up of **seven full-time academic staff members**, split across divisions to support student success, including recruitment, engagement, academic support, retention efforts, and career services. The Office of Student Services (OSS) houses five staff members and is responsible for all facets of **academic advising, planning and execution of commencement**, and acts as a liaison between students and faculty advisors and the larger campus community supporting student needs. OSS also includes an **Assistant Director of Professional Development, Internships, & Career Services** who develops and implements strategies to enhance student career readiness and success through individual coaching, group workshops, and large-scale programming. The Office of Recruitment and Outreach houses two staff members and is responsible for **implementation of strategic initiatives to impact enrollment, retention, and student engagement**, as well as **conducting recruitment programs and facilitating prospective student visits** throughout the year.

The Dean's Office empowers College of Agriculture students and faculty by providing academic information, advice, and support.

Recruitment Efforts



Recruitment

In 2024–2025, the Office of Recruitment and Outreach advanced the College of Agriculture’s enrollment and engagement goals through a wide range of outreach efforts. These included participation in **university recruitment events**, **expanded high school and group visits**, and **personalized communications for admitted students**. Signature programs and statewide partnerships further strengthened the College’s presence across Louisiana and key regional markets.

Recruitment By the Numbers

Applications from students pursuing an Agriculture degree

2,387

Students applied

23.4%

increase in applications from 2024

Admission for students pursuing an Agriculture degree

1,548

Admitted students

19.1%

increase in admissions from 2024

Recruitment events include:

- Kickoff LSU: 9 instances, **321 students**
- Eye of the Tiger: 2 instances, **73 students**
- Scholars Weekend: 1 instance, **2 students**
- Destination LSU: 5 instances, **114 students**
- Academic Preview: 1 instance, **8 students**
- Mock Lecture: 1 instance, **5 students**
- **305 in-person** prospective student visits
- **6 virtual** prospective student visits
- **30 high school visits/presentations** throughout 15 parishes
- **11 group tours** for middle or high school students

Admitted Student Communication	Summer '24 Initiatives	Fall '24 Initiatives	Spring '25 Initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admitted Student Postcards • Les Voyageur Phone-a-Thons • Holiday Postcards • Admitted Student Mailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louisiana FFA Convention • 4-H University • Louisiana Farm Bureau Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bash on the Bayou • Southwest Ag Careers Day • 4-H/FFA Application Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo College Ag Day • LSU School of Veterinary Medicine Open House • EBR 6th Grade Days • Southeast Louisiana Ag Careers Day

Retention Efforts

OSS Advising Model

OSS maintained a **dual-advising model** with academic and procedural advising occurring in the OSS office and curriculum and content advising occurring with the faculty advisors in each department. OSS advisors routinely worked with faculty advisors to problem solve, create opportunities for students, and assist with complex student cases.



Targeted Outreach for Student Cohorts includes:

- Communication prior to Fall and Spring scheduling that included **updated faculty advisor contact information as well as updated curriculum information.**
- **Midterm Outreach** based on D/F/W reports.
- **Pre-Vet outreach** to better align student aptitudes with appropriate major pathways.
- **“Missing Schedule” outreach** to assist students without schedules leading into the next semester.
- **Academic Action** outreach and planning for students on scholastic warning/probation. **A new Academic Action Webinar** will be implemented during summer 2025 for those students recently put on scholastic warning/probation.
- Students identified by faculty as needing additional academic support were provided individualized outreach through **Academic Intervention Team (AIT) case management.**
- First-year students in ARC were given additional access to OSS advisors through **weekly in-person advising hours in Blake Hall.**
- **Monthly college newsletter** detailing college and university events, internships/job opportunities, student/faculty spotlights, and academic calendar reminders.

Navigate Metrics

All College Meetings
(including Faculty Advisors)

3,346

Appointments Created

1,208

Scheduled Hours

Dean’s Office Staff

1,567

Appointments Created

423

Scheduled Hours

Retention Efforts



AGRI 1001

The focus of the AGRI 1001 course is to **assist incoming, first-year students with a successful transition to LSU**. Students are able to engage with COA faculty, Dean's Office staff, and Peer Mentors while covering topics such as academic success strategies, professional development & career exploration, and course scheduling & academic planning.



409

students enrolled in AGRI 1001 for fall 2024 (94% of first-year students pursuing an agriculture degree)



Peer Mentors

are an important model for student retention initiatives within the College of Agriculture. In their role, they are a part of a select group of undergraduate students who work closely with College of Agriculture administration and faculty to serve the needs of first-year students as they make the transition to their college careers. In fall 2024, **13 students** served as Peer Mentors for AGRI 1001.

Agriculture Study Abroad

During the spring 2025 semester, **11 students** participated in an international study abroad experience in the Czech Republic while receiving credit for AGRI 3900. Enhanced by a long-standing partnership with Mendel University, students developed a deeper understanding of Czechia culture and unique agricultural practices while making comparisons to those in the United States. The culmination of this experience was a digital storytelling project highlighting their personal and professional growth as a result of their time abroad. AGRI 3900 is a Communication-Intensive (C-I) course certified for the **writing mode**.

STUDENTS REPORTED...*

86% indicated they were satisfied with their experience in the College of Agriculture.

93% felt satisfied with the support and feedback from their peer mentor(s).

91% indicated they were likely to return to LSU next year.

97% felt prepared going into the subsequent spring semester.

Students identified the most beneficial aspects of the course as creating their Professional Development Portfolio (ePDP), participating in goal check-in meetings with their instructor and peer mentor, and engaging in professional development opportunities such as resume building.

*This data is collected from the TIGA II - Fall 2024, administered to AGRI 1001 students at the end of their first semester. With a response rate of 91%, statistics reflect only responses marked "satisfied," excluding those marked "neutral."

Retention Efforts

Events

The Dean's Office facilitates **college-wide events** to foster a sense of community, encourage student interactions with college faculty, staff, and campus resources, and develop professional and interpersonal skills for future success.



Events facilitated by the Dean's Office includes:

- **Open House** - Designed for incoming students, **226 incoming College of Agriculture students** congregated at **LSU's Hill Farm Teaching Facility** to engage with college faculty, learn more about the college's eight undergraduate degree programs, explore Hill Farm, and enjoy a sweet, refreshing treat.
- **ARC Convocation** - The ARC Convocation officially welcomes those students living in Blake Hall and enrolled in AGRI 1500. A total of **111 incoming freshmen** joined the Dean's Office staff in the **4-H Mini Farm** to enjoy dinner, interact with their ARC rectors and other freshman students pursuing a degree in agriculture, and learn more about the benefits and expectations of the ARC Living-Learning Community.
- **Burger Bash** - Open to all incoming and continuing students in the College of Agriculture, this year's Burger Bash welcomed **427 participants** at the **4-H Mini Farm**. Students enjoyed a complimentary burger lunch and LSU Dairy Store ice cream while engaging with student organizations and members of the LSU campus community during an involvement fair central to the event.
- **Fall Fest** - Each year on the **LSU Parade Ground**, the LSU community comes together to celebrate and explore the vast opportunities our campus has to offer. Over **2,000 incoming and continuing students** stopped by to connect with COA student organizations, hold a chicken or pet a goat, and beat the heat with an LSU Dairy Store ice cream.
- **AGRI 1500 Living-Learning Community Events** - The purpose of this course is to assist first-year students participating in the Agriculture Residential College (ARC) with a living-learning experience. Through weekly department-led programming, students explore majors and career opportunities within agriculture while making valuable connections with faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture. Students are expected to attend two signature events and three career and/or community events throughout each semester. Students were able to sign-up for **40 events** throughout the 2024-2025 academic year.

Retention Efforts

Events facilitated by the Dean's Office includes:

- **Career Prep Week** - The annual Career Prep Week strives to provide students with the opportunity to build on their professional development skills and network with potential employers. This year, programming entailed touring the newly opened Tailored Tiger Professional Clothing Closet, a resume workshop, networking workshop, etiquette dinner, and culminated with the Agriculture Career Fair. Students across the college (including those in University College) were invited to attend all events. This year's Career Prep Week saw participation from **557 students, 59 employers, and 5 College of Agriculture alumni volunteers**.
- **Ag Week** - The college's annual Ag Week showcases how agriculture makes a difference in Louisiana and across the world. Students had the opportunity to give back to the campus, learn about various career paths, and foster community among their peers. This year, programming entailed volunteering with the LSU Food Pantry, a reverse tie-dye event, vet school info session, a Women in Ag Panel featuring LSU AgCenter staff, and a presentation on regenerative agriculture. Students across the college (including those in University College) were invited to attend all events. This year's Ag Week saw participation from **129 students and 8 partners & volunteers**.
- **Summer Sendoff** - This inaugural event provided College of Agriculture students with an opportunity to share their summer plans with college staff and the broader Ag Community. **80 students** participated, enjoying LSU Dairy Store ice cream, playing yard games, and posing for photos to showcase their upcoming activities—which included internships, full-time employment, continued education, and study abroad experiences.

Funding Student Success



\$300,000

awarded in scholarships to College of Agriculture students.



\$42,000+

awarded in undergraduate research grants to 8 students.



\$16,000

awarded in travel funds to College of Agriculture students.

Development

The College of Agriculture is bolstered by a community of **engaged alumni**, **donors**, **stakeholders**, and **industry partners** who are invested in **retaining and supporting students**.



\$3.30 MILLION

raised during fiscal year 2025 for
LSU Agriculture.



\$1 MILLION+

received to support agricultural
research.



\$143,000+

raised during 2025 LSU
Giving Day for the College of
Agriculture.



\$240,000

received in matching funds from
the Louisiana Board of Regents
for 5 professorships.



2

new professorships established
in Soybean and Grain, funded by
the Louisiana Soybean and Grain
Research and Promotions Board.

Alumni Engagement

College of Agriculture Alumni Association

The College of Agriculture Alumni Association was founded in 1987 by alumni and friends of LSU College of Agriculture. It connects individuals to LSU, the College, and each other, while providing networking opportunities and **supporting the College's mission of teaching, research, and service.**



Members of the COA Alumni Association **assist with recruitment initiatives, support student development, and enhance professional development opportunities.** Alumni are critical in connecting students with resources that will shape their experiences at LSU and beyond. Alumni open the door to endless opportunities for our students.

In fiscal year 2025, the Alumni Association experienced significant growth, with membership increasing by 77% and revenue doubling. This growth has expanded the association's ability to support College of Agriculture programs, student organizations, and engagement activities including:

- Supporting the **Agriculture Student Association (ASA) with \$500** for their Tie Dye t-shirt event during Ag Week 2025,
- **Providing \$7,500 in scholarships to three students** for the 2024-2025 academic year through the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship,
- **Volunteering for college-wide events** like Burger Bash, Ag Career Prep Week, and Ag Week,
- **Purchasing a new grill** to support the annual Burger Bash event,
- **Providing all graduates with a gift** from the COA Alumni Association, and
- Hosting the annual Ag Alumni Crawfish Boil, bringing more than **200 alumni and their families** together.

What's Next

2025 Strategic Plan



LSU Agriculture is composed of the LSU AgCenter and the College of Agriculture (COA). The current LSU Agriculture strategic plan, published in spring 2025, aims to secure our future through **Louisiana Solutions, Global Impact**.

The **strategic goals for LSU Agriculture** acknowledge our foundation in the land-grant system and prioritize serving the state & providing exportable solutions. To secure our future, we seek to:

- Increase agricultural production and enhance the preservation of Louisiana's natural resources by developing talent, technologies, products and practices.
- Expand the talent pipeline through youth development, Ag Leadership and college academic and workforce development programming that returns talent to rural communities in Louisiana.

COA's key targets include:

- Increase average **research expenditures by 8%** annually
- Grow College of Agriculture **undergraduate enrollment to 2,000 students** and **graduate enrollment to 450 students**
- **Achieve top 10 University ranking** in agricultural sciences and natural resource conservation research expenditures
- Support research, extension, and teaching excellence by **securing \$12 million annually** in philanthropic donations

To achieve this, the COA must maintain a culture of academic excellence, Scholarship First, and a student-centered learning environment. A student-centered culture of success that demands rigor and accountability from students and faculty alike is necessary to improve retention and graduation rates.

Our Team

ADMINISTRATION

Interim Vice President for Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture

Dr. Michael Salassi
msalassi@agcenter.lsu.edu
225-578-2391

Executive Associate Dean

Dr. Allen Rutherford
drutherford@agcenter.lsu.edu
225-578-4187

Assistant Dean

Jennie Sparks
jsparks2@lsu.edu
225-578-2080

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Business Manager

Sonja Scott
sonja@lsu.edu
225-578-0300

OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

Assistant Director of Student Services

Joshua Allred
jallre3@lsu.edu
225-578-9004

Student Services Coordinator

Jonathan Thomas
jthomas6@lsu.edu
225-578-8166

INTERNSHIPS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Assistant Director of Professional Development, Internships & Career Services

Cole Guidry
coleguidry@lsu.edu
225-578-1251

RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH

Director of Recruitment

Henry Hebert
henryh@lsu.edu
225-578-2468

Coordinator of Recruitment

Amber Hayes
hayes1@lsu.edu
225-578-2467

ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Executive Director of Development

Tracy Evans
tevans@lsufoundation.org
225-615-6866

Director of Industry Engagement

John Tillery
jtillery@lsufoundation.org
225-578-8011

Senior Director of Development

Claire Francois
cfrancois@lsufoundation.org
225-205-8996

Director of Development

Hannah Gambrell
hgambrell@lsufoundation.org
985-290-9665

Director of Development

Sarah Armstead
sarmstead@lsufoundation.org
985-290-9665

Assistant Director of Development Services

Brooke Miller
bsmith@lsufoundation.org
225-578-8513

Development Services Coordinator

Megan Carpenter
mcarpenter@lsufoundation.org
225-578-7604

Director of Alumni & Donor Relations and Event Management

Aimée Lemann
alemann@agcenter.lsu.edu
225-578-8791

Louisiana State University

106 Martin D. Woodin Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

225-578-2065

agri@lsu.edu