It’s time to look at Iowa State University. Career and family commitments don’t mean an advanced degree is out of the question. You can earn a masters degree from one of the leading agricultural institutions in the country without even leaving your desk. The Master of Science in Agronomy program at Iowa State University is the first such degree you can earn from your home or office simply by using your computer and the Internet. But it’s more than that.

**WHAT’S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS DEGREE?**
Traditional graduate degrees in agronomy emphasize research. This degree program—aimed at professionals working in industry and government—emphasizes development of superior problem-solving and communication skills. It is a 40-credit, non-thesis program that provides a diverse background in agronomy and related disciplines by integrating crop, soil, climate, and pest management information into a rigorous curriculum. To complete the program, students also formulate a professional development project called a creative component, a report that applies course content to real-world agronomy issues.

**WHEN AND WHERE YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS. . .**
Built-in flexibility allows students to complete the program at their own pace relative to their professional, family, and other commitments. Although it is possible to finish in two years, most students enroll in only one or two courses per semester while working full-time. Therefore, most students achieve their masters degree in three to five years.
WHAT IS THE PROGRAM LIKE?
The core of the program is its courses, which are accessible by computer via the internet and CD. The courseware combines interactive material on the CD with online communication tools, connecting you with your classmates, professors, and up-to-the-minute information. Most of the program can be completed remotely from your home or office; however, the program orientation, Agronomy 594 (a 4-5 day workshop), and a creative component seminar will require you to travel to the Ames, Iowa campus.

To attain your master’s degree, you must complete all 40 credits of the program. The first 31 credits emphasize technical knowledge and applications in the areas of climatology, crop production, soil and water management and integrated pest management. The remaining credits focus on integration of knowledge and development of problem solving and professional skills.

The culminating portion of the program is a professional development project called a creative component. The creative component is an in-depth analysis of a problem or topic resulting in specific conclusions or recommendations which takes the form of a written report. Since a majority of our students are working professionals, the creative component is seen as an opportunity to apply course content to the everyday agronomy issues they may face.

WHAT IS THE COST?
Because the M.S. in Agronomy program is offered at a distance, many of the costs associated with getting a masters degree are no longer a concern. You can keep your current employment and don’t need to relocate. Many employers support continued education with compensation, and there are several scholarship and funding opportunities available to students in the program. For up-to-date graduate tuition rates, visit our website. Aside from tuition costs, you will also need to pay a delivery fee for course materials, textbook costs, and travel, lodging, and meal expenses for on-campus visits.

“You HAVE [DEADLINES], BUT AT THE SAME TIME YOU HAVE FLEXIBILITY TO WORK ON YOUR OWN SCHEDULE.”
—MIKE JANSEN, PROGRAM GRADUATE

“IT DIDN’T FEEL LIKE I COULD JUST QUIT AND GO BACK TO COLLEGE PROFESSIONALLY OR FINANCIALLY. I DON’T KNOW HOW ANYONE COULD HAVE A CAREER AND GET THEIR MASTERS ANY OTHER WAY.”
—MARK JOHNSON, PROGRAM GRADUATE
WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS?
To be admitted to the program, you must meet the following prerequisites:

1. Obtain a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
2. Graduate in the top half of your class (approximate GPA of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale)
3. Complete the following ISU courses or their equivalent at another institution:
   - Biology 109: Introductory Biology (3 cr.)
   - Chemistry 163: General Chemistry (4 cr.)
   - Math 140: College Algebra (3 cr.)
   - Statistics 104: Introduction to Statistics (3 cr.)
   - Agronomy 114: Principles of Crop Production (3 cr.)*
   - Agronomy 154: Fundamentals of Soil Science (3 cr.)*

* Prerequisite crop and soil courses are waived for Certified Crop Advisers (CCA).

These prerequisites have been limited to those considered essential because many students did not major in agronomy as undergraduates. If you have completed a 4-year degree from a College of Agriculture, you have satisfied most of these requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY?
To apply, you must complete a pre-application form, submit official transcripts, and provide three professional letters of recommendation. You can find the pre-application form on our website, or contact us and we’ll send you a paper copy. If you meet the profile for admission, we will instruct you on how to officially apply to the Graduate Admissions Office. Otherwise, we can help you further prepare to meet the requirements.

WHO ARE MS STUDENTS?
MS students are self-motivated, disciplined individuals with family and career commitments looking to advance their education. They come from all over the world, including 41 different states, 3 Canadian Provinces, and Mexico. Though many students work in the seed industry, extension, or government, the program also attracts producers, consultants, and professionals in other varied occupations. This variety of backgrounds gives our student community a breadth of knowledge unique to the distance learning environment.

AREAS OF STUDENT OCCUPATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>Chemical Industry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Consultant/Co-op</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Government/Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Production</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Seed Industry</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of students: 112

“I WAS WORKING 60-70 HOURS A WEEK AND RAISING FIVE CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME, SO [THE] PROGRAM HAD TO BE FLEXIBLE . . .”
—MIKE JANSEN, PROGRAM GRADUATE

MAP OF STUDENT LOCATIONS
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Agron 501. Crop Growth and Development

Agron 502. Chemistry, Physics, and Biology of Soils
3 cr. Fall. Prereq: Agron 114, Agron 154, Biol 109, Chem 163, and Math 140. Soil chemical, physical, and biological properties that control processes within the soil, their influence on plant/soil interactions, and soil classification. Basic concepts in soil science and their applications.*

Agron 503. Climate and Crop Growth
3 cr. Fall. Prereq: Agron 114 and Math 140. Applied concepts in climate and agricultural meteorology with emphasis on the climate-agriculture relationship and the microclimate-agriculture interaction. Basic meteorological principles are also presented to support these applied concepts.*

Agron 511. Crop Improvement

Agron 512. Soil-Plant Environment

Agron 513. Quantitative Methods for Agronomy

Agron 514. Integrated Pest Management

Agron 531. Crop Management and Ecology

Agron 532. Soil Management

Agron 533. Crop Protection
3 cr. Fall 2006. 3 cr. Fall 2006. Prereq: Agron 514. Integrated management systems for important crop pests. Cultural, biological and chemical management strategies applicable to major crops grown in the Midwest.*

Agron 591. Agronomic Systems Analysis
3 cr. Spring. Prereq: Agron 511, 513, 531, 532 and 533. Analysis of cropping systems from a problem-solving perspective. Case studies will be used to develop the students’ ability to solve agronomic problems.*

Agron 592. Current Issues in Agronomy
3 cr. Spring. Prereq: Agron 501, 503, 511, 512, 513 and 514. Study and discussion of topics of current interest to the field of agronomy. While Agron 591 deals with agronomics at the farm and landscape level, Agron 592 seeks to address issues on a broader scale including off-farm agricultural impacts.*

Agron 594. Workshop in Agronomy

Agron 599M. Creative Component
1-3 cr. (3 cr. total). Fall, Spring, Summer. A written report based on research, library readings, or topics related to the student’s area of specialization and approved by the student’s advisory committee.*

* Required courses for the Master of Science in Agronomy degree program. Restricted to graduate students enrolled in degree programs at Iowa State University.

VISIT US ONLINE:
http://masters.agron.iastate.edu