

## CAREERS

- Golf Course Superintendent
- Athletic Field Manager
- Chemical Sales Representative
- Equipment Sales Representative
- Lawn Care Operator/Supervisor
- Sod Farm Manager
- Seed Sales Representative



"I love the outdoors and know the importance of agronomy to the sustainability of civilization. Whether crops or turf maintenance, agronomy is everywhere."

**Aaron Tucker, student**



The national average salary for an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent was \$41,372 in 2015. It was \$85,204 for Superintendents. Other students choose careers in sports turf management or lawn and landscape management - both pay competitively.

## CONTACT

### **BARRY STEWART**

Associate Professor  
Specialty: Turfgrass Management  
brs40@msstate.edu  
662-325-2725

### **JAY McCURDY**

Assistant Extension Professor  
Specialty: Turfgrass Science  
jdm269@msstate.edu  
662-325-2331

### **PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

117 Dorman Hall  
Mississippi State, MS  
39762-9555

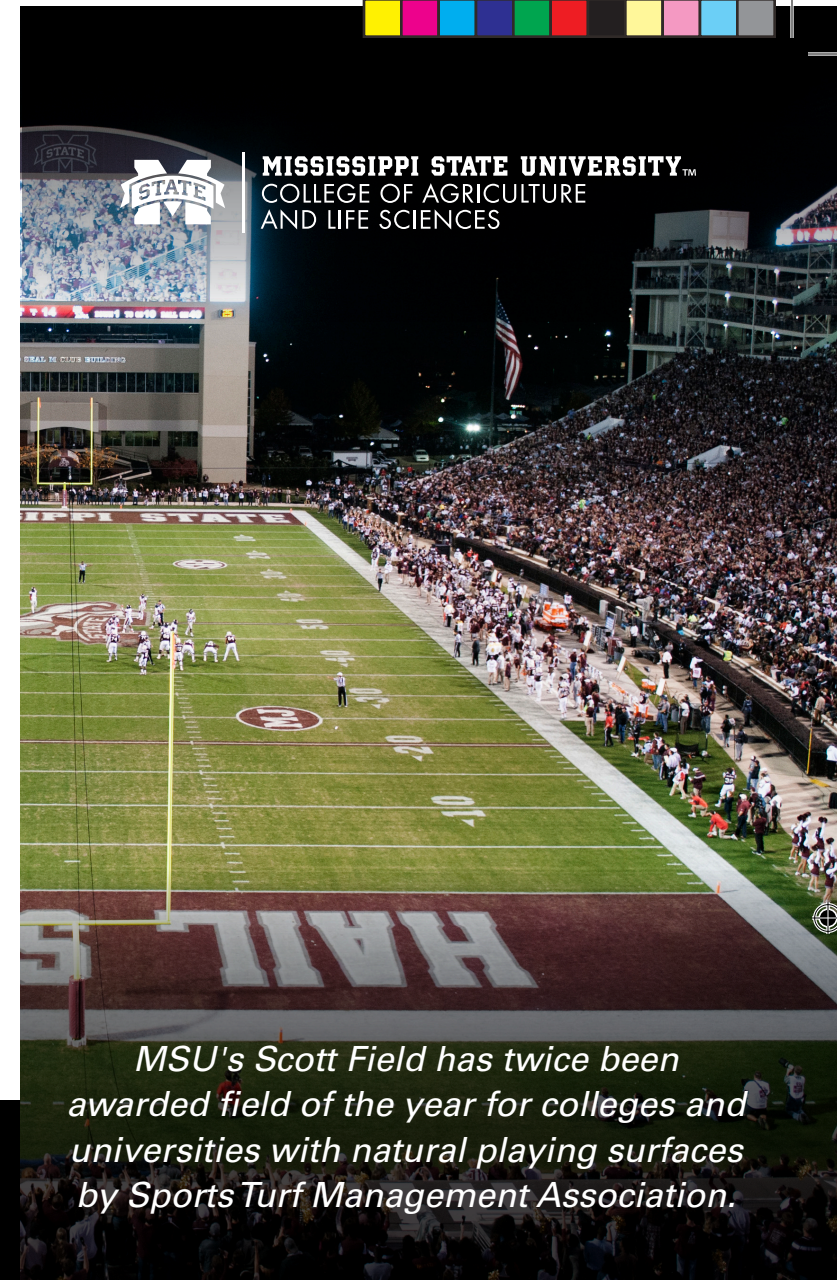


***pss.msstate.edu***

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Avenue, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY™



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES

*MSU's Scott Field has twice been awarded field of the year for colleges and universities with natural playing surfaces by Sports Turf Management Association.*

## GOLF & SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT

***Agronomy | pss.msstate.edu***



## WHY MSU?

**F**or more than 50 years, MSU's turfgrass management program has graduated over 400 of the nation's best golf course superintendents, sports turf and landscape managers, and industry entrepreneurs. The program attracts students from around the country who are passionate about sports and the outdoors.

Earning a degree requires completion of three cooperative learning experiences (internships). Student employment during the semester is encouraged and facilitated.

This focus on experiential learning means that students from our program have greater than a 95% job placement rate in the industry of their choosing.

# 95%

Students from our program have greater than 95% job placement rate in the industry of their choosing.

## ABOUT

Golf and Sports Turf Management (GSTM) is the study of plant and soil sciences for the culture of turfgrass on golf and sports facilities.

The GSTM curriculum prepares individuals for careers as golf superintendents at private, daily fee, and resort courses or as sports turf managers at city, school and professional sports turf facilities (i.e. football, baseball, soccer fields).

New construction of golf courses and sports facilities has led to a heightened demand for trained golf and sports turf management professionals.

The curricula focus is on the application of sciences to the integrated management of turfgrasses for athletic fields and golf courses. Central to this course of study is the dedication to conserve, maintain, and enhance our environment.

## CURRICULUM

### COOPERATIVE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

GSTM students must complete a minimum three semesters of Coop Work experience at a golf course with an individual who is certified or progressing toward certification with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America or at a sports stadium with a recognized sports turf manager.

One of the three Coop semesters must be a non-summer semester. A 2.50 cumulative QPA on all MSU work is required to participate in the GSTM Coop program.

### CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

PSS 2213 Intro to Turf

PSS 3411 Turf Seminar

PSS 4413 Turfgrass Management

PSS 4423 Golf Course Operations

PSS 4443 Athletic Field Management

PSS 4823 Turf Weed Management

EPP 3423 Turf and Ornamental Insects

EPP 4523 Turfgrass Diseases

"I chose this major because I love managing turf at the highest level. Everyone here is easy to talk to and I love learning how they approach different situations. The classes are great and some are pretty difficult. Those also tend to be the most important courses."

*Chase Smith, student*

# STAY IN THE GAME

### Where our graduates are working:

#### GOLF COURSES

**Augusta National**, Augusta, GA • **Keya Golf Club**, Fukuoka, Japan • **The Preserve Golf Club**, Vancleave, MS • **Cherokee Town and Country Club**, Atlanta, GA • **Memphis Country Club**, Memphis, TN • **Concord Country Club**, Concord, NH • **Old Waverly and Mossy Oak Golf Clubs**, West Point, MS

#### ATHLETIC FACILITIES

**University of Tennessee Athletics**, Knoxville, TN • **University of Mississippi Athletics**, Oxford, MS • **Roger Dean Stadium**, Jupiter, FL • **Beloit Snappers**, Beloit, WI • **Vanderbilt University Athletics**, Nashville, TN • **Mississippi State University Athletics**, Starkville, MS