CAREERS

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

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.

“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

CONTACT

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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.

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, gender identity, 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) 325-5833.

“Turf is everywhere. Whether it’s in your backyard or on a college sports field, MSU’s MSUCALS provides the latest in turfgrass management.”

@MSUCALS @MSU_Ag

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WHY MSU?

For 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%

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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

The GSTM program requires completion of 30 credits of coursework in the GSTM area with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50. GSTM students must also complete 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.

Where our graduates are working:

"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. These also tend to be the most important courses."

Chase Smith, student

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Chase Smith, student

STAY IN THE GAME

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 GPA 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

GOLF COURSES

Augusta National, Augusta, GA • Keys 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