The Illinois Professional Science Master’s (PSM) prepares scientists in rigorous, hands-on M.S. degree programs combining science knowledge with business know-how.

BREADTH. By combining science with business, subject matter is broader than in more traditional master’s.

INTEGRATION. Designed with the scientist in mind, business content integrates science perspectives into marketing, technology management, entrepreneurship, and other business courses.

SEMINARS. Weekly industry seminars each semester feature industry speakers and additional business and professional skills.

INTERNSHIP. Science + business acumen are applied to real-world problems in a hands-on internship. The individual or team-based internship is completed after the first year of study.

The Illinois PSM can be completed in just 16 months – three semesters plus one summer term. No thesis is required.

The Illinois PSM is for those who want—
- advanced knowledge beyond the bachelor’s degree in a science field,
- a science career beyond the bench, and
- to apply their science knowledge and passions at the intersection of science + business – creating new products, managing projects, and making discoveries.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. The Agricultural Production program offers three specializations: (1) crop production, (2) food animal production, and (3) sustainable production systems. Students customize their curriculum, in consultation with the program coordinator, to match their specific personal and professional goals. Courses are available in animal sciences, crop sciences, horticulture, integrative biology, plant pathology, and others. This program is ideally suited for those who want to work in the food production and distribution industry.

BIOPROCESSING & BIOENERGY. The Bioprocessing and Bioenergy program is part of the Illinois’ Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory (IBRL) and the top-ranked Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The program provides cutting-edge knowledge of the rapidly expanding bioprocessing and bioenergy arenas, learning from leading scientists in the field. Students choose courses based on their specific areas of interest and career plans.

FOOD SCIENCE & HUMAN NUTRITION. Building on a long tradition of graduate education, the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition has added the PSM to its portfolio of graduate degree programs. This program is ideally suited for those who want to work in the business of food chemistry, food microbiology, food packaging, biotechnology, or food processing and engineering. The program is flexible to help students meet their professional objectives.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE. Geospatial technologies are an integral part of our interconnected world and are applied in many industries including agriculture, healthcare, energy, and transportation. Students will build a cross-disciplinary expertise around a strong GIS core, plus build on Illinois’ renowned strengths in informatics, computer sciences, and related fields. The program is offered by the School of Earth, Society, and Environment.

TECHNICAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT. Merging technology with management in a systematic approach to problem-solving is the foundation of the technical systems management program. Graduates focus on the application of engineering principles, the study of technology used in agriculture, and the integration of business concepts in food and agricultural industries. The program is offered by the top-ranked Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.
All Illinois PSM programs have a curriculum structure with four common components and a total of at least 42 semester hours:

- Science Curriculum
- Business Curriculum
- Industry Seminar Series
- Internship

SCIENCE. This is the core of the program. The 32 semester hours of coursework are determined by each program; students select courses in consultation with their faculty program coordinator. The science curriculum is flexible, allowing the student and his or her advisor to select a portfolio of courses that best suits each student’s personal and professional aspirations.

BUSINESS. The 10 semester hour business curriculum is delivered in four half-semester courses in partnership with the College of Business and one semester long law and regulation course. Most business courses are taken together as a cohort, though some are taken with other business graduate students. To remain responsive, specific courses may vary from year-to-year but are built around themes:

- Finance and accounting
- Science and regulatory policy
- Management and marketing
- Project management
- Teamwork and leadership

INDUSTRY SEMINARS. Students across all Illinois PSM programs participate jointly in the seminars, creating opportunities to learn across disciplinary boundaries. The seminars have two purposes: (1) to provide students with the opportunity to interact with and learn from key business leaders about issues currently facing their firms and industries, and (2) to provide additional business-related instruction to hone students’ professional skills. Seminars meet weekly (PSM 501, 502, and 503; zero or one credit hour), and taken in each semester of enrollment (excluding summer).

INTERNSHIP. The internship is completed in the summer after the first year of study. Students begin preparing for the internship early in the first semester. Internships may be individual (i.e., a single student is hired by an organization) or team-based (i.e., a team of 2-3 students working collaboratively is hired by an organization). Securing internships is a joint responsibility amongst the student, his or her faculty program coordinator, the Illinois PSM, and the employing organization. Enrollment and summer tuition is required for the internship (PSM 555, zero or one credit hour). For international students on F-1 visas, the internship is considered curriculum practical training (CPT) and requires prior authorization through International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). Internships may be paid or unpaid.
**APPLYING**

Admission is competitive and based on academic credentials, career goals, test scores, and other information. Applications are accepted in early fall for admission the following fall. The first round of admissions decisions are typically made in January; afterwards, admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. Applications and supporting materials are submitted online. Applications are accepted until mid-summer as space is available.

For complete application information, including deadlines, visit the “Prospective Students” page on the Illinois PSM website (psm.illinois.edu).

**COSTS & FINANCIAL AID**

Tuition and fees for the entire 16-month program – three semesters plus one summer term – are approximately $31,000 for residents and $48,000 for non-residents.† For details, visit the “Cost and Financial Aid” page on the Illinois PSM website (psm.illinois.edu/prospective-students/cost).

Illinois PSM students may be eligible for student loans. Visit the Office of Student Financial Aid (osfa.illinois.edu) for additional information. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, is generally required.

Illinois PSM students may not hold assistantships or other tuition and fee waiver-generating appointments. However, statutory waivers are allowed and tuition scholarships are accepted.

† Rates are for the 2017-18 academic year; tuition and fees are subject to change.

**CONNECT**

Need more information? We’re available to talk with you and answer your questions. Call us at 217-265-5363 or use one of the methods below:

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