



Tim Pruski  
 B.S. – Agronomy and Genetics, 2003 UW-Madison  
 M.S. – Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics, 2006 UW-Madison  
 PhD student – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Make sure you do internships or get involved working in a lab as an undergrad if that’s the type of work you want to get into. You’ll get experience and learn exactly what that position entails so there won’t be any surprises when you graduate and want to get a job in a certain field.”

- Tim Pruski

## He spends his time in the classroom

Although Tim Pruski grew up in the city of Hartford, WI, he was always interested in science and his relatives were very involved in the agriculture industry. When he entered UW-Madison to pursue a career in plant genetics, he knew the best path was through the agronomy program.

“What solidified my decision to major in agronomy was an undergraduate job in a lab where I sort of got to become a plant breeder,” Tim says. The position paired him with a PhD student who taught him what it takes to be a successful graduate student and researcher. During his junior year, Tim decided to complete a second major in genetics when he discovered that he was only two classes shy. He earned both of the majors through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).

He then went on to graduate school and earned a master’s degree in plant breeding and plant genetics from CALS. He is now working toward his doctoral degree in plant genetics.

He says there are some innate skills that help him excel at research.

“Being a researcher, you have to have an inquisitive nature and try to find solutions to problems,” Tim says. “You need to strive to learn more about your field because you can never know everything.”

Though Tim has extensive classroom and laboratory training in an academic setting, he says one of the most interesting and helpful experiences to date was the internship that he did at Seminis Seed just after his junior year. It was a chance to learn how an actual breeding operation works. When the summer came to an end, he wished he had pursued internship opportunities earlier in his schooling.

Tim’s background and education in plant breeding have positioned him for a job with a public or private sector organization. He is grateful for his core education in agronomy from UW-Madison that will propel his future in plant breeding.