

Criteria for Approval of Courses for the Food Systems Minor
Bucknell University

Approved by vote of the Food Systems Minor Coordinating Committee

July 12, 2021

Amended by vote, March 28, 2022

Amended by vote, November 4, 2024

Members of the Coordinating Committee:

Clare Sammells (Coordinator, Sociology & Anthropology), John Penniman (Religious Studies),
Mark Spiro (Biology), Margot Vigeant (Chemical Engineering), Katie Tardio (Classics &
Ancient Mediterranean Studies)

Bucknell Courses

Courses are approved for inclusion in the minor by the entire minor coordinating committee.

Faculty should submit their courses for consideration through the following form:

<https://forms.gle/FTSQYn2XqdLJqBXz7>

General criteria are:

- 1) The course should feature some aspect(s) of food systems as a central theme throughout the course. Content and/or methodologies from food studies should be an explicit through-line in the course.
- 2) Courses should be re-submitted for review every three years.
- 3) The course must address one of the objectives listed below. We encourage faculty to consider adding these objectives as appropriate to their syllabi.

Course Objectives for courses listed in “Global Cultural Approaches to Food Systems”

In this course, students will investigate the myriad ways in which individuals, communities, and societies produce, distribute, consume, or conceptualize food.

In this course, students will gain a critical understanding of the role and meaning of food in historic and/or contemporary societies, including the impact of food systems on human wellbeing.

In this course, students will explore cuisine as a cultural practice, and reflect on aesthetics as well as ethics of consumption.

Course objectives for courses listed in “Applied Approaches to Food Systems”

In this course students will learn and/or apply scientific approaches to the production of plants or animals for consumption from one or more biological, ecological, or agricultural perspectives.

In this course students will consider the science and/or engineering behind nutrition, cooking, storing, fermenting, or otherwise processing food.

In this course students will consider the practical aspects of moving, distributing, or commoditizing food within the context of a global economic system.

Other Bucknell Courses with significant food-systems projects

Students may count one advanced course in which they are completing a significant project on food systems, even when the course as a whole is not approved for the minor. The course must be taught at the 200-level or above. A student may count only one such course towards the minor. The course will not count as part of either list.

The student must provide the following to the Coordinator of the Minor Committee for consideration:

- 1) The course syllabus;
- 2) A description of the project to be undertaken, and how it relates to food systems;
- 3) An email from the course instructor of the course explaining why their course should count towards the Food Systems minor for this student in this case.

Final decisions to approve these courses for an individual student’s minor requirements will only be made once the course is completed. Students are encouraged to consult the professor of the course and the Food Systems minor coordinator when they enroll in the course of their intentions to count the course towards the Food Systems minor.

Bucknell Independent Study and Research Courses

Students may elect to count one Bucknell course towards the Food Systems minor as an independent study. With approval, this course can count in a specific list for the minor. The student must provide the following to the Coordinator for consideration:

- 1) A description of the study undertaken, and how it relates to food systems;
- 2) Any significant work resulting from the independent study;
- 3) An email from the faculty instructor explaining why this independent study should count towards the Food Systems minor.

Study-Abroad Courses

Study-abroad courses must be approved by a Bucknell University academic department before they can be approved for the Food Systems minor. After gaining approval from the appropriate department, the student must also fill out this online form in order to have the course considered towards the Food Systems minor: <https://forms.gle/VfqpNUVfkzapgLV6>

The student must submit the course syllabus as part of this request. In cases where the syllabus is not available before the student travels abroad, it may be submitted afterwards for retroactive approval towards the minor.

Study-abroad courses without a significant critical or analytical component will not be approved.