

STUDENTS OF AGRONOMY, SOILS, & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

<https://www.sciencesocieties.org/undergrads>

The Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) is the undergraduate student program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). SASES is an affiliation of agronomy, crops, soils, plant science, or environmental science clubs and their undergraduate student members from colleges and universities throughout the world (primarily the United States).

Student clubs can choose to affiliate with SASES. There is not a club fee to affiliate with SASES, but it is required that all club members become individual student members of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Undergraduate students are encouraged to join even if they do not have a local affiliated club.

SASES benefits students by:

- Promoting career opportunities in agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental sciences
- Encouraging professionalism, cooperation, and an exchange of ideas among students
- Developing lifelong career and leadership skills
- Providing unity among members and clubs
- Gaining exposure and interacting with professionals/activities of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Contests

Individual members, teams, and clubs will compete for cash prizes, certificates, complimentary society membership, and/or journal subscriptions. Contests are supported by ASA, CSSA, SSSA, and outside sponsors.

CANVAS contests:

Crops Judging contest—provides opportunities for students to practice plant identification, laboratory, and problem solving skills.

Pedology contest—prepares students for careers in soil conservation and management through the classification and interpretation of soil and land in an unfamiliar location.

Agronomic Issues contest—students work together to think critically and develop a solution to a local, regional, or national agronomic issue.

Presidents' Trophy contest—offers SASES chapters an opportunity to showcase their annual achievements and initiatives. Society Incoming Presidents will select a SASES chapter of the year.

Quiz Bowl—tests student knowledge as teams of four face off to answer questions relating to agronomy, soils, crops, and environmental science.

Research Symposium contest—develops the ability of students to conduct research and competitively present those research findings through oral and poster presentations to judges at CANVAS.

Internship Poster contest—highlights students who completed summer internships in the agronomy, crop, soil, or environmental field and provides an opportunity to showcase what they learned.

Club Poster contest—showcases undergraduate club activities from the past year and gives students the opportunity to gain experience in producing and presenting a poster, interact with the public and professional sector.

Other Contests:

Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Writing contest—provides students with experience in researching, organizing and writing articles on scientific topics for publication.

National Collegiate Soils Contest—provides students with experience in identifying, evaluating, and classifying soil profiles at this yearly traveling contest.

Collegiate Crops Judging Contest—provides students with experience in commercial grain grading, seed analysis, and plant identification.

National Student Recognition Program

Advisors from each four- and two-year institution are invited to select and submit one outstanding senior member from their department. Recipients are recognized in CSA News and receive a customized plaque.

Scholarships*

Academic Undergraduate Scholarship—for meritorious undergraduate students pursuing a career in agronomic, crop, or soil science

J. Fielding Reed Undergraduate Soil and Plant Sciences Scholarship—for senior undergraduate students pursuing a career in soil or plant sciences

Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship—for undergraduate student recipients of the National Student Recognition Program pursuing a graduate degree

Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship—for undergraduate and graduate students interested in working in the field of soil and water conservation

Golden Opportunity Scholars and ***Greenfield Scholars***—for outstanding undergraduate students who desire a mentor to help cultivate a professional network. Selected students get all expenses paid to attend CANVAS, including sessions designed especially for them and their mentors.

* - Number and value of scholarships may vary from year to year

Annual Meeting/CANVAS

SASES holds their fall meeting in conjunction with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA CANVAS meeting. The meeting provides students with an opportunity to participate in professional development programs and meet with professionals in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Highlights include workshops, tours, contests, graduate school networking, career exploration, and social events. Business meeting(s) are held for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and addressing agenda items.

Spring Meetings

A weekend meeting is held at a university campus during the spring term. The hosting SASES club is responsible for planning, coordinating, and funding the event. Activities include tours, educational speakers, workshops, and social events. Clubs seeking to hold the Spring Meeting will submit a proposal online, and the SASES Executive Team will select the hosting club.

MEMBERSHIP

What clubs are eligible to become an affiliated chapter of SASES?

Any university or technical college student organization with a primary focus on the promotion of the agricultural sciences is eligible to become a SASES chapter. Clubs do not have to adopt the title of SASES to be affiliated with SASES, nor do clubs have to be comprised exclusively of agronomy, crop, soil, or environmental science majors. SASES is an inclusive organization that encourages students from disciplines related to the agronomic and environmental sciences to become participating members.

How to Become an Affiliated SASES Chapter

1. Clubs wishing to affiliate with SASES as a student chapter will submit a written request to the Executive Team of SASES via the headquarters Staff Liaison.
2. Clubs need to maintain 100% club membership within SASES, and an announcement of the newly affiliated club will be made to all SASES members.
3. Affiliated chapters have the privilege of participating in the Presidents' Trophy Contest and they receive special recognition from ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

Club Membership

1. Clubs are composed of undergraduate students who are actively interested in agronomy, crop, soil and environmental sciences, and closely related areas.
2. It is recommended that chapters hold at least semi-monthly meetings during the school year.
3. The club shall have at least one faculty advisor who is a member of ASA, CSSA or SSSA and shall provide the faculty advisor's contact information to the National Executive Team and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters.

4. Elections, term of office, and other qualifications of club officers will be left to the discretion of the club in accordance with its university/college policies.
5. Postgraduates who have qualified to participate in national contests while in the course of their undergraduate studies may continue their chapter membership for the sole purpose of participating in the national contests, except when in conflict with national contest rules.
6. Each active chapter may be represented by two delegates at the Annual Meeting for the purpose of voting for National Officers. These delegates must be present at the Delegate Training session.
7. Delegates must be present at the Business Meeting(s) to vote.
8. Individual student membership dues are determined on an annual basis. Clubs can choose to sponsor a portion or all of each students' dues. The renewal date for each membership is 12 months after the join date. Renewal notices will be sent to SASES student members starting 90 days prior to the renewal date. Student members are encouraged to communicate with their clubs when their renewal is due. Chapter treasurers are encouraged to collect membership fees and paperwork from individual members and submit them as a package to the ASA, CSSA, SSSA national headquarters.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

All ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA undergraduate student members are eligible to serve as a SASES National Officer, providing they plan attend both the Spring Meeting and the CANVAS meeting within their term. Students running for office are not eligible to serve as delegates in the same year. Officers cannot succeed themselves in the same office, including drop-downs with.

Officers are elected annually by participating SASES club delegates at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA CANVAS meeting. The national officers shall serve for one year with their term of office beginning and ending with the calendar year. If the president cannot serve and/or resigns for any reason, the vice president shall assume the office for the remainder of the term. If any other officer cannot serve or resigns for any reason, the National Officers, in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, shall appoint a successor either from the nominees at the previous election or an individual selected from the resigning officer's local chapter.

Being a National Officer is a team effort. The officers meet every month virtually to discuss the SASES program. They accept new clubs into SASES, find and book keynote speakers for the CANVAS, determine the host school of the Spring Meeting, and work to improve SASES overall. Officers may also collaborate on other projects of their choosing. Society staff and the Undergraduate Advisory Committee are there to support and assist the National Officers.

SASES President

1. Leads the SASES Executive Committee.
2. Presides at the CANVAS meeting and oversees the duties of the SASES Executive Committee.
3. Assists the SASES Executive Committee and committee chairs developing professional and educational programs and contests for its membership.

4. Coordinates with the Undergraduate Advisory Committee and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters staff in planning the CANVAS program and associated professional, educational and networking events.
5. Welcomes new and reactivated clubs into the SASES and follows up on requests for information from potential clubs.
6. Communicates regularly with the SASES Executive Committee to coordinate activities and provide leadership for the various activities of SASES.
7. Communicates regularly with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters regarding the activities of SASES.

SASES Vice President

1. Coordinates with committee chairs to ensure all committees execute their assigned duties.
2. Serves as program chair at CANVAS.
3. Serves on the Undergraduate Advisory Committee and works with the SASES Executive Committee, committee chairs, and local chapters to coordinate CANVAS activities.
4. Assists with correspondence between SASES Executive Committee and committee chairpersons.
5. Communicates regularly with committee chairs, as appropriate.

SASES Treasurer

1. Communicates with ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters staff, SASES Executive Committee, and tour venues to ensure all tour payments and other financial business measures are set up before CANVAS occurs.
2. Assists with all fundraising, merchandising, and financial requests by SASES members, clubs, and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters staff.
3. Assists Society staff with special projects pertaining to undergraduate programs and operations.
4. Collaborates with Historian Officer in initiating and maintaining correspondence with student chapters.

SASES Recording Officer

1. Records minutes of all business meetings at CANVAS and Spring Meetings.
2. Prepares and distributes minutes of the SASES business meeting approximately one month after CANVAS to all active chapters, the Executive Committee, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, and the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters staff.
3. Obtains an accurate listing of convention delegates at the first business meeting of CANVAS.
4. Records minutes of the SASES Executive Committee video calls and distributes minutes to the Executive Committee, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, committee chairs, and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters staff by uploading online.
5. Facilitates the presentation of a Spring Meeting recap/promotion by the host university at the CANVAS.

6. Shares results of soil and crop judging contests.

SASES Historian Officer

1. Obtains reports of committee activities and chapter news articles for posting on the SASES website and social media, in collaboration with the Treasurer.
2. Collects photos of individual chapter meetings and events throughout the year for sharing to national SASES online materials.
3. Assists Society staff with special promotional projects, as needed.
4. Captures photos of student activities and members at Spring and CANVAS events.
5. Prepares a SASES Annual Recap for presentation at the CANVAS SASES Business Meeting.

National Officer Elections

Students wishing to be elected as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Officer or Historian are asked to complete an online officer profile before CANVAS. Officer profile submission period will be open for approximately one month and completed profiles will be available on the SASES and CANVAS Student Program webpages once submission period closes.

Profile submissions will close approximately one week before CANVAS.

Profiles submitted at CANVAS will not be accepted.

Any ASA, CSSA, or SSSA undergraduate student member not attending CANVAS who wishes to be a candidate for an officer position must notify the current SASES President and Society staff. This must be done via email, prior to 12 PM on the submission deadline, with their intention to run for office and which office they will be running for. Their names will be presented by the SASES President at the Business Meeting. Candidates not attending CANVAS must also provide a 2-minute video speech of why they should be elected prior to the Thursday before the SASES meeting. This video will be shown to the delegates if the candidate advances beyond the primary.

All profiles **MUST BE SUBMITTED PRIOR** to the election or the candidate will be withdrawn from candidacy.

SASES National Officers Election Information

1. By Monday of CANVAS, all profiles will be viewable on the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA SASES program webpage. Names and schools will be displayed the weekend prior. We encourage all club delegates to take time to evaluate profiles before arriving at the CANVAS meeting.
2. On Monday, during the primary election, all SASES club delegates will receive an email with a link to the profiles and voting. This will allow them to cast one vote per office in the primary election. Delegates will be required to complete voting before leaving the Business Meeting.
3. The primary election will conclude with the end of the SASES Business Meeting on Monday of CANVAS.
4. After the primary election concludes, the two candidates with the top votes, in each office, will proceed to the final voting round.

5. All SASES members will be notified of the primary election results by email by 1:30 PM on Monday.
6. The top two candidates running for each of the national officer positions will be asked to give a two-minute presentation during the election meeting (Monday at 9:00 AM). Up to one (1) person can give a supporting speech on the candidate's behalf for no more than one (1) minute.
7. Candidates running for President or Vice President who are not elected to these positions will have the opportunity to roll down to one other office (Treasurer, Recording Officer, or Historian Officer) if they are not elected. Candidates who roll down as a nominee to another office can speak for two (2) minutes. No supporting speeches for candidates who roll down can be given. Only candidates who run for President and Vice President will be able to roll down and only to the other three positions. Should either of these candidates roll down, it is likely that there will be more than two candidates for their roll down position(s).

Order of Events at the Election Meeting

1. President candidates' speeches and supporting speeches
2. Delegates vote for President
3. Vice President candidates' speeches and supporting speeches
4. Delegates vote for Vice President
5. Winners of the President and Vice President elections are announced
6. Non-winners are given the opportunity to roll down
7. Treasurer candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections)
8. Delegates vote for Treasurer
9. Recording Officer candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections)
10. Delegates vote for Recording Officer
11. Historian Officer candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections)
12. Delegates vote for Historian Officer
13. Winners for each office are announced

COMMITTEES

Two committees are responsible for assisting the Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences with specific meeting functions and the organization of undergraduate contests: the SASES Executive Committee and the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Professional members and/or club advisors interested in serving on the Undergraduate Advisory Committee must indicate interest annually according to Society guidelines, available online. The SASES

Executive Committee members are formally elected each year as SASES National Officers. The SASES President and Vice President serve as liaisons on the Undergraduate Advisory Committee; and are responsible for ensuring the SASES Executive Committee accomplishes their duties.

Committee Responsibilities

- Communicate and coordinate between corresponding student committees
- As needed, communicate with the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters
- Provide the SASES National Officers with reports on the progress of the committee
- Promote and help implement contests and activities; this may mean recruiting volunteers
- Assist with contest sessions and activities at CANVAS annually

HISTORY OF SASES

At the 1921 meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the Society President appointed a committee to evaluate the need for a national organization for agronomy students.

On March 8, 1922, a questionnaire was sent to the agronomy departments of 24 institutions. Results of the questionnaire were discussed by the committee on April 14 at a meeting in Kansas City and a report generated. At the 1922 ASA Annual Meeting, the report was accepted and a new committee appointed.

At the 1932 fall Society meeting, a temporary student organization, the Student Activities Section, was accepted as a subsidiary organization of ASA. By 1941, charters in the Student Activities Section had been granted to 23 institutions. During late World War II (1942 to 1946), the organization became inactive. In 1947, steps were taken by ASA to revive the agronomy clubs nationwide. Student names were selected from a hat by the Student Activities Committee to set up a slate of national officers. By 1953, 39 chapters had joined the national organization and by 1980, there were 73 active chapters.

Before 1950, the Student Activities Section held its annual meetings in Chicago at the International Livestock and Grain Show. Since 1950, Annual Meetings have been held at the ASA Annual Meeting. At its convention in 1950, the name of the student organization was changed from the Student Activities Section to the Student Activities Subdivision of the Resident Education Division. In 2003, the organization became its own distinct group and the name was changed to the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES). SASES is now affiliated with the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. The organization continues to meet during the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings and has expanded to include regional meetings every spring.

SASES

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