

SASES

Students of Agronomy, Soils, & Environmental Sciences

agronomy.org/students • crops.org/students • soils.org/students

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 undergraduate agronomy, crops, soils, plant science, or environmental science organizations and their student members. Student organizations interested in joining SASES must petition the organization to become an affiliated chapter. There are no individual or chapter fees to affiliate with SASES. However, affiliated chapter members must become individual student members of the ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA.

SASES benefits students by:

- Promoting career opportunities in agronomy, crops, soils, plant science and environmental sciences
- Encouraging professionalism, cooperation, and interaction among student members
- Developing professional and leadership skills through contests, organizational meetings, workshops, mentorships and volunteer and elected leadership positions
- Unifying chapters to promote the education and professional development of its members
- Fostering members' understanding of the professions of agronomy, crop, soil, plant science, and environmental sciences
- Promoting opportunities for interaction with ASA, CSSA, and SSSA professionals

Programs and Activities

Contests

Individual members, teams, and chapters compete for cash prizes, certificates, complimentary Society memberships, and/or journal subscriptions. Contests are supported by the Societies and private organizations.

Contests Held/Awarded at the Annual Society Meetings:

Club Poster Presentation Contest—showcases undergraduate work through chapter activities

Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Manuscript Contest—undergraduate scientific manuscript preparation for publication

Research Symposium Contest—professional presentation of undergraduate research work

Speech Contest—preparation and delivery of a professional presentation over a topic drawn on-site

Visual Presentation Contest—preparation of educational visual materials over a technical topic

Quiz Bowl—team competition focusing on general agronomic, crops, soils, plant science and environmental science knowledge

Contests Held Throughout the Year at Regional Locations:

Soil Judging Contest—contestants compete to correctly identify, describe, evaluate, and classify soil pedons

Collegiate Crops Judging Contest—contestants compete in plant and seed identification, commercial grain grading, and seed analysis

National Student Recognition Program

Outstanding undergraduate seniors that are members of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA at affiliated four- and two-year institutions are nominated for recognition by their academic departments. Students are recognized in the *CSA News* and receive a plaque.

Scholarships

Hank Beachell Future Leader Scholarship—awarded to a student participating in activities that enhance their university studies

J. Fielding Reed Scholarship—awarded to a senior pursuing a career in soil or plant sciences

Cross-Cultural Experience Program—awarded to a student participating in a study-abroad program

Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship—awarded to a student recipient of the National Student Recognition Program and pursuing a graduate degree

National Society of Consulting Soil Scientist (NSCSS) Scholarship—encourages undergraduate students to major in soil science degree programs

Internships

Annual Meeting Internship—students assist the Societies with ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting functions. Online applications are available approximately three months prior to the Annual Meetings.

SASES Annual Meeting

The SASES Annual Meeting is held in conjunction with the international annual meetings of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Undergraduate student members have the opportunity participate in professional development programs, industry tours, individual and chapter contests, employment and graduate school interviews, and networking events. Student can also interact with practicing and academic professionals in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Three SASES business meetings are held to elect officers, receive reports, and conduct general business.

Regional Meetings

Weekend regional meetings are held at one or two college/university campuses during the spring term. The sponsoring SASES chapter is responsible for planning and coordinating the event. Activities often include tours, educational speakers, and social events.

Regional meeting sites are determined by a vote of the SASES chapter representatives at the Annual Meeting. The SASES President solicits nominations from affiliated chapters to host the following academic year's regional meeting(s) during the spring term. Chapters seeking to host a regional meeting are required to present a 10 minute overview of proposed meeting activities/agenda to the general membership at the Annual Meeting. Chapters' bids for the regional meeting are voted on by the SASES National Officer team). Up to two regional meetings may be held per academic year.

Membership

SASES Affiliate Eligibility

Any college/university recognized undergraduate student organization having as its primary focus the promotion of agronomy, crops, soils, plant science, and/or environmental science is eligible to petition to become a SASES affiliate chapter. Affiliated chapters do not have to adopt the title of SASES, nor be comprised exclusively of agronomy, crop, soil, plant science 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.

Becoming an Affiliated SASES Chapter

1. Organizations wishing to affiliate with SASES as a student chapter can obtain a petition by contacting the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. The completed petition form should be submitted to the Chair of the Student Advisory Committee via the same office.
2. A petition will be reviewed and approved by the SASES Executive Committee.
3. A decision will be made and the petitioning chapter informed of the results within 60 days of receipt of the petition by headquarters.

4. The new chapter will require interested members to pay student membership dues to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters after their petition for SASES affiliation is ratified.

Affiliated Chapter Requirements

1. Chapter members should be comprised of undergraduate students actively interested in agronomy, crops, soils, plant science and/or environmental sciences and closely related areas.
2. Chapters should have at least one faculty advisor who is a member of ASA, CSSA or SSSA and will provide the faculty advisor's contact information to the SASES Executive Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters by October 1st each academic year.
3. Official chapter operation (meetings, elections, etc) is left to the discretion of the chapter in accordance with its college/university approved by-laws.
4. Postgraduates who have qualified to participate in SASES-sponsored contests while in the course of their undergraduate studies can continue their chapter membership for the sole purpose of participating in these contests, except when in direct conflict with individual contest rules. Postgraduates' affiliation with SASES will terminate with the last business meeting at the SASES Annual Meeting.
5. Active chapters are those chapters that have current active student members of the ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA. Individual student membership dues to ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA are \$15.00 per calendar year and are due to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters one year after the original student membership date. Renewal notices will be sent to SASES chapter Advisors, chapter presidents and individual student members 60 days prior to the renewal date. Chapter treasurers may collect membership fees and paperwork from individual members and submit them as a complete package to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters (ATTN: ??).
6. Chapters are required to provide the SASES Corresponding Secretary with a roster of the names and contact information of the chapter's acting officers for the next academic year by April 15th. The National Corresponding Secretary's contact information is available on the SASES website.
7. Each active chapter may be represented by two delegates at the Annual Meeting for the purpose of voting for Executive Committee Officers and to transact business. A chapter represented by one delegate will have its sole delegate vote counted as two votes in all elections/motions.
8. Chapter delegates must be present at all business meetings to vote. If delegates leave the Annual Meeting early, a replacement delegate must be identified and the SASES President must be notified.

SASES Executive Committee

Executive Committee Composition and Role

The SASES Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Membership Coordinator. The five-member SASES Executive Committee is elected each year during the Annual Meeting.

The SASES Executive Committee acts on behalf of SASES chapters and their members and works in cooperation with ASA, CSSA, and SSSA and the Student Advisory Committee to develop and promote the Annual Meeting program and address other student-related issues that are forwarded from the chapters.

SASES Executive Committee Responsibilities

SASES President

1. Leads the SASES Executive Committee
2. Presides at the Annual Meeting and oversees the execution of the duties of the Executive Committee
3. In coordination with the SASES Executive Committee and Student Advisory Committee, appoints standing committees and necessary temporary committees
4. Directs the SASES Executive Committee and committee chairs to develop professional and educational programs and contests for its membership

5. Ensures the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails of all current SASES Executive Committee members and committee chairs are submitted to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters
6. Coordinates with the Student Advisory Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff in planning the Annual Meeting and associated professional, educational and networking events
7. Welcomes new and reactivated clubs into the SASES and follows up on requests for information from potential clubs
8. Coordinates four or more teleconferences among the SASES Executive Committee, Student Advisory Committee, and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Headquarters staff (One teleconference per month is strongly recommended.)
9. Communicates regularly with the Executive Committee to coordinate activities and provide leadership for the various activities of SASES
10. Communicates regularly with the SAC and ASA-CSSA-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 the Annual Meeting
3. Serves on the Student Advisory Committee and works with the SASES Executive Committee, committee chairs, and local chapters to coordinate Annual Meeting activities
4. Handles correspondence between SASES Executive Committee and committee chairpersons
5. Communicates regularly with committee chairs

SASES Corresponding Secretary

1. Makes timely submissions to *CSA News*, *News Flash* and other Society publications.
2. Obtains reports of committee activities and chapter news articles for posting on the SASES Website and Facebook page
3. Sends petitions for new chapters to active chapters for approval and tabulates results to report to the Executive Committee
4. Submits the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails of all current SASES Executive Committee members and committee chairs to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Headquarters
5. Maintains Facebook page by posts items of possible interest and checking regularly for spam or questions.

SASES Recording Secretary

1. Records minutes of all business meetings at the Annual Meeting
2. Prepares and distributes minutes of the SASES business meetings approximately one month after the Annual Meeting to all active chapters, the Executive Committee, Student Advisory Committee, and the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff
3. Obtains an accurate listing of convention delegates prior to the first business meeting of the Annual Meeting
4. Records minutes of the SASES Executive Committee teleconferences and distributes minutes to the Executive Committee, Student Advisory Committee, committee chairs, and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff
5. Prepares a memorandum of proceedings of regional meetings and results of soil and crop judging contests
6. Provides a financial report at the annual and regional meetings

SASES Membership Coordinator

1. Handles correspondence between the SASES and local chapters
2. Contacts all affiliate chapters to obtain or verify the information required to develop a listing of active chapters and their student leadership.
3. Sends correspondence to chapters, regarding membership renewals
4. Coordinates with the Membership Committee chair(s) to contact potential and inactive chapters about SASES chapter affiliation. Provides Student Advisory Committee with list of inactive chapters.

Becoming a SASES Executive Committee Member

Students wishing to be elected as President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, or Membership Coordinator should complete an officer profile form prior to the Annual Meeting. The form will be available on the SASES website a minimum of 60 days prior to the first day of the Annual Meeting. Officer profile forms should be returned to the Recording Secretary prior to the first business meeting of the Annual Meeting. Officer profiles will be circulated among the chapters in attendance at the Annual Meeting prior to the election of new officers.

All students wishing to be elected to a position on the SASES Executive Committee must be present at the Annual Meeting and verify their intent to be a candidate for office at the first business meeting.

Executive Committee Member Election

1. Any active member of SASES is eligible to run for a position on the Executive Committee, providing they are in attendance at the Annual Meeting.
2. SASES Executive Committee members cannot succeed themselves in the same office (the exception is if an elected President resigns and the Vice President assumes the duties of President, then the elected Vice President may seek election to the presidency).
3. Nominations of for all Executive Committee positions shall be made by chapter voting delegates seated on the floor at the first business meeting of the Annual Meeting.
4. When called upon, at the last business meeting of the Annual Meeting, candidates running for executive committee positions will speak, at maximum, two minutes on their own behalf. Following each candidate's speech, a maximum of two additional SASES members can provide supporting speeches on that candidate's behalf. Supporting speeches are limited to one minute. Current members of the Executive Committee are not allowed to speak on a candidate's behalf.
5. Election of Executive Committee members shall occur by a secret ballot with only appointed chapter delegates voting. A majority of the valid ballots cast is necessary to elect each position. In the event a majority vote is not achieved on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be involved in a runoff until a clear majority vote is attained. If after the first runoff vote a clear majority cannot be attained via vote, the current Executive Committee will choose the winner.
6. Prior to a runoff, the remaining two candidates are allowed to present a maximum, one minute speech on their own behalf. No supporting speeches can be given.
7. Candidates not elected to a position have the opportunity to seek election (slide) to one other position. Candidates who slide as a nominee to another position can speak again on their own behalf for a maximum two minutes. No supporting speeches can be given. Candidates are only allowed to run for two offices total.
8. Voting delegates at the Annual Meeting shall have the power to elect all officers.

Term of Office

1. SASES Executive Committee members and committee chairs shall serve for a term of office that begins at the close of the last business meeting of the Annual Meeting of which they were elected and ends at the close of the last business session of the next Annual Meeting. Past-Executive Committee members will continue to serve in Ex-officio status until December 31st of the calendar year to facilitate a smooth transition to the new team of Executive Committee members.
2. If the President cannot serve or resigns for any reason, the Vice President shall assume the President's office for the remainder of his/her term. If other members of the Executive Committee cannot serve or resigns for any reason during their term, the remaining Executive Committee, in consultation with the Student Advisory Committee, shall appoint a successor either from the non-elected candidates for that Committee position from the previous election or an individual selected from the resigning officer's chapter.
3. Postgraduates who have been elected to serve as an officer on the SASES Executive Committee or as committee chair while in the course of their undergraduate studies can continue in office for the sole purpose of discharging the duties of the office to which they were elected.

Committees

Committee Appointments

Committees are responsible for specific meeting functions and contests. Students interested in serving as committee chairs must complete a committee chair form at the Annual Meeting indicating their committee preference. Position descriptions will be circulated at the Annual Meeting during the first business meeting or can be accessed at <https://www.agronomy.org/students>. Committee appointments are made jointly by the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees and the Student Advisory Committee at the conclusion of the last business meeting of the Annual Meeting. One or more students may be appointed to serve on a committee. Students are appointed as chair or co-chairs.

Committee Chair Responsibilities

- Cooperate and work with the designated SASES Executive Officer to fulfill the specified duties of the committee
- In concert with the designated SASES Executive Officer communicate and coordinate with the corresponding ASA-CSSA-SSSA Committee. As needed, communicate with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters through the designated SASES Executive Officer
- Provide the SASES Vice President semi-monthly update reports on the progress of the committee. Submit the first committee update report by January 15th of the current academic year
- Attend the SASES Annual Meeting
- Promote and assist with contests and activities
- Preside over contest sessions and activities, if required, at the Annual Meeting
- Present a report of activities, including recommendations, to the delegates at the Annual Meeting
- Maintain a file of duties, activities, and correspondence which can be passed on to subsequent committee chairs

Committee Chair Positions

Positions include: Membership, Manuscript Contest, Collegiate Crops Judging Contest, Soils Judging Contest, Speech Contest, Student Activities, Visual Presentation Contest, Research Symposium Contest, Placement, Parliamentarian-Historian, Quiz Bowl, and Club Poster Presentation Contest.

Additionally, institutions hosting the regional meeting(s) will appoint a Regional Planning Meeting Chair for the purposes of communicating the progress of the meeting development with the Executive Committee.

Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee works closely with SASES and is comprised of up of one representative from each society, the current SASES vice president, one past SASES Executive Committee Officer, a graduate student representative, and an early career professional.

Society representatives, graduate student representative and early career professional are appointed by the Executive Committees of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Society representative serve staggered three year terms, with one new Society representative appointed each year. The society representative serving their third and final year serves as acting chair of the committee and the SASES Faculty Advisor. The remaining committee members will be appointed for a minimum of one year up to three years, except for the SASES vice president and past SASES Executive Committee member who will serve for one year.

The committee functions to:

1. Serve as the liaison between SASES and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA
2. Evaluate programs and activities of SASES and make appropriate recommendations to SASES and ASA, CSSA, and CSSA3. Ensure coordination and cooperation between SASES and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA
3. Provide guidance and support to SASES Executive Committee and Committee Chairs

4. Coordinate with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA committees responsible for student contests and the National Student Recognition Program of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA.

The advisory committee meets via teleconference and at student regional and annual meetings as needed.

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 the 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 the 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 with the parent society. 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's 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 annual regional meetings.

SASES

5585 Guilford Road, Madison, WI 53711

Phone: 608-273-8080 Fax: 608-273-2021

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