Agricultural and Biological Engineering offers students the opportunity to gain expertise in areas of engineering for biological/agricultural systems corresponding to their professional interests. Graduate students select research projects (and supporting course work) from a wide range of interest areas that match faculty research expertise. Research projects are available in:

- physical properties of biological materials
- plant and animal production systems
- food engineering
- wood engineering
- agricultural structures
- agricultural safety
- food safety
- bulk solids handling and storage
- agricultural systems engineering
- agricultural by-product utilization
- forage processing and handling systems
- electronics instrumentation
- online computer control systems
- erosion and sedimentation control
- waste management
- water quality
- natural resources management and conservation

Excellent facilities, including equipment and instrumentation, are available for research in the designated areas. Among the special facilities are:

- field plot areas
- a full-scale sedimentation basin test facility
- hydraulic flumes
- sedigraph
- gas and ion chromatography units
- atomic absorption unit
- rainfall simulators

Collaborative arrangements allow access to a large variety of other resources:

- Penn State Institutes of the Environment and Energy
- Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences
- Materials Research Institute
- Materials Characterization Laboratory
- Nanofabrication Facility
- Penn State Institute for CyberScience
- PA Housing Research Center
- Center for Food Manufacturing
- USDA Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Lab
- a mushroom research and demonstration facility
- a 1,500-acre agricultural research center for cooperative work with agronomic and horticultural production systems as well as animal production systems.