

## Ag Education

# License to sell: Certificate helps student land buyer position

By AMY CALABRETTA

Hanson Brudevold's goal of becoming a grain buyer has come to fruition, thanks in part to a course at the University of Idaho.

The student from New Plymouth, Idaho, will graduate this month with a degree in agricultural economics: agribusiness emphasis and a certificate in agricultural commodity risk management.

He credits an independent study course for helping him land a position as grain originator for Northwest Grain Growers.

"First job out of college, I'm going to be doing what I love to do," Brudevold said.

Brudevold took an independent study course with Andres Trujillo-Barrera, an assistant professor, focused on preparing Brudevold for the National Futures Association (NFA) Series 3 exam.

The NFA Series 3 license is required for financial professionals who wish to sell commodity futures and options. The exam is typically taken after receiving a degree and within the first 60 days of employment. An employee spends that time studying for the exam and learning from seasoned brokers.

Brudevold passed the exam in January 2021, providing him with credentials before graduation — credentials that his competition didn't have. He was offered the position with Northwest Grain Growers shortly after.

"I believe I got the job because of the license," Brudevold said. "I was competing against a lot of people with more work experience, but I brought in credentials that they did not have."

For Brudevold, the hardest part of the exam was learning about different regulations.

"In every class, everyone learns futures and options and how to calculate a basis," Brudevold said. "Going through the regulations was the hardest part for me because it's not really hands-on math based. Regulations is not usually something that's taught in a



**Hanson Brudevold got his Series 3 license to buy and sell grain through a college class.**

classroom setting."

Even though Brudevold has accepted a job offer, he is still receiving calls to interview for positions. Years of uncertainty in the market has resulted in a demand for graduates with experience in agricultural commodity risk management.

"That certificate is, in my opinion, like gold," Brudevold said. "The number of places and doors that it will open for you is remarkable."

Brudevold began as an animal and veterinary science student with the intention of becoming a cattle or grain buyer. After taking an agricultural economics course from Norm Ruhoff, director of the Agricultural Commodity Risk Management program, Brudevold knew he needed to make a switch to achieve his goals. The hands-on aspects of the certificate program allowed him to apply what he was learning in the classroom.

College "has prepared me for my future career in an immense amount of ways," Brudevold said. "We actually have hands-on experiences. We're not just taking notes and not seeing it in use. And that's, in my opinion, the biggest thing we have. We'll teach you how to do it and then we'll walk you through it."

# 3 things students can do now to prep for college

Oregon Goes to College

No matter what grade students are in, there are things they (and their educators and families) can do to get ready for college.

### 1. Achieve

Do well in school. Set goals, go to all your classes, do your best to get good grades, and get help when needed.

Take the right classes. Make sure you're on track to graduate and get into college and challenge yourself with honors or advanced classes.

### 2. Engage

Get involved. Participate in school and community activities including clubs, sports, volunteering or a part-time job.

Spend time with good people. Choose to hang out with friends that share positive goals and interests and find a mentor.

Make good choices. Be

safe online and on your phone, avoid risky behaviors, and treat others with respect.

### 3. Explore

Explore college and career options. Make a list of interests and preferences and get to know colleges.

Learn about paying for college. Learn about the costs of college and ways to help pay for it. Set up and regularly contribute to a college savings account and make a list and apply to any available scholarships.



Students test soils in a lab taught by Jared Williams in the Applied Plant Science Department.

# 6 common myths about college

Oregon Goes to College

Don't be fooled by these common myths about college:

### Myth: College only means a 4-year degree.

There are many types of colleges and degrees — college is just a shorthand way of saying education or training after high school. Certificate and training programs at community colleges and trade schools can take less than a year. Associate degree programs usually take two years. The common element: learning and training keeps going after high school.

### Myth: College is unaffordable.

You can pay for college — in fact, most students don't pay full price. Use a Net Price Calculator to get an estimate of what you will actually pay, after including some types of financial aid.

Most students pay for college in a variety of ways including financial aid, earnings from part-time or full-time jobs, savings and money from parents and family.

### Myth: Planning for college starts junior year of high school.

It's not too early to start

thinking about college and career. Middle school is a good time to begin exploring options and practicing positive habits — colleges will be looking at classes and grades as soon as students start 9th grade. No matter what grade you are in, there are things you (and your families) can do to get ready for college.

### Myth: You need to know what you want to study before you go to college.

College is a time to explore. The majority of students end up changing their major or program during their college career. However, it's still worthwhile to explore interests and potential career fields while in middle and high school.

### Myth: College is only for the smartest students.

College is an option for

everyone. There are many different colleges and post-secondary programs available. Some colleges require specific classes or high grades to be accepted, while others have no requirements beyond graduating from high school or earning a GED. The more challenging classes and the better grades you get, the more options you will have, plus more scholarships available to you.

### Myth: There is one perfect college for everyone.

There are over 100 colleges, branch campuses and centers in Oregon and over 4,000 colleges and universities across the U.S. so you have many options for schools that are a good fit. Consider a variety of characteristics when exploring colleges, especially focusing on your academic, social and financial needs.

# Brigham Young University-Idaho offers wide range of ag degrees

Brigham Young University-Idaho is a private university located at Rexburg, Idaho.

Founded in 1888, the university is owned and operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints. We offer many agricultural degrees including Agricultural Technology, Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science, and Horticulture.

We focus on applied learning inside and outside

of the classroom with greenhouses, gardens, an orchard, and farmland resources.

For more information look to our website at <https://www.byui.edu/applied-plant-science/> or call 208-496-1411.



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