Cal Poly’s Animal Science Department provides one of the best Learn by Doing programs in the nation. Extensive on-site facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories provide the resources for students to learn the principles required for successful careers in fields such as veterinary medicine, animal biotechnology, food animal production and processing, animal nutrition, and feed manufacturing.

In 2019, Cal Poly had more students accepted into the veterinary medicine program at UC Davis than any other university nationwide, outside of UC Davis.

With a student run dairy on campus there are many hands-on opportunities. Whether milking cows, providing care for the dairy herd, or balancing a diet, the dairy is your classroom.”

LAUREN ALVAREZ, dairy science major
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENT-RUN DAIRY AND CREAMERY
The 500-cow Cal Poly Dairy is largest student-run dairy in the U.S., with students overseeing all aspects of its daily operations. At the Cal Poly Creamery, students produce and market farmstead products such as cheese and ice cream.

USDA CERTIFICATION
Cal Poly’s state-of-the-art meat processing center holds the sole USDA certification on a university campus and provides students with the opportunity to produce, package and market meat products. Cal Poly produces and sells fresh beef, pork, lamb, poultry and specialty meat products, including bacon, sausage and jerky.

OPPENHEIMER FAMILY EQUINE CENTER
The new 60,000-square-foot covered riding area, foaling barn, stallion barn and hay barn at the northern end of Cal Poly’s campus opened in June 2018. Students from across campus benefit from the equine center, with programs including a foaling and breeding enterprise, a quarter horse enterprise, the Cal Poly Dressage Team, the Cal Poly Polo Team and the Cal Poly Equestrian Team.

Students are immersed in a hands-on culture from day one: foaling horses, breeding cows, raising chickens and quail, riding and training horses, operating the campus dairy, working in the meat processing center, and learning the techniques needed to operate a veterinary clinic.

In addition, students are involved with faculty in the research and development of new technologies related to animal health and production, using cutting-edge equipment, facilities and technologies. Through extensive undergraduate research opportunities, students are prepared for careers in discovery, science and innovation.

ON THE JOB CAREERS
Animal husbandry technician
Animal nutritionist
Range conservationist
Veterinarian
Veterinary technician

STUDENT CLUBS
Cal Poly Dressage Team
Cal Poly Equestrian Team
Equine Eventing Club
Horse Judging Team
Los Lecheros Dairy Club
Polo Club
Poultry Club
Rangeland Resource Club
Reined Cow Horse Club
Veterinary Science Club
Young Cattlemen’s Club
Zoo and Exotic Animal Careers Club

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