ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

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.

MAJORS

ANIMAL SCIENCE • DAIRY SCIENCE

MINORS

- MEAT SCIENCE AND PROCESSING
- DAIRY INDUSTRIES
- RANGELAND RESOURCES
- EQUINE SCIENCE
- POULTRY MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE, SPECIALIZATION IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

Cal Poly graduates make up a large percentage of veterinary students entering UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine each year and are accepted into colleges of veterinary medicine throughout North America and Europe.

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.

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.

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.

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

CONNECT

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