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 within veterinary medicine, animal biotechnology, food animal production and processing, animal nutrition, feed manufacturing, and many more.

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

Working with the Cal Poly Animal Science Department has given me valuable hands-on opportunities that have solidified my desire to continue with a career in this field. The small class sizes have allowed for stronger connections with my professors, which has been a huge advantage as I apply for vet school. Through this department, I have practiced skills that most students won’t get to experience until their second or third year of vet school.”

Haley Konoval, animal science major, pre-vet track
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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

USDA CERTIFICATION
Cal Poly’s 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 equine center includes a new 60,000-square-foot covered riding area, foaling barn, stallion barn and hay barn. Through various classes, enterprises, and teams, students from across campus have direct involvement with breeding, foaling, training, marketing, and hosting our annual performance horse sale.

ON THE JOB
CAREERS
Animal husbandry
Assisted fertility technology
Nutrition
Range conservation
Veterinary medicine
Pharmaceuticals

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

CONNECT
805-756-2419
animalscience.calpoly.edu
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@CALPOLY_CAFES
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/CALPOLY_CAFES