ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

Cal Poly’s Animal Science Department provides one of the finest 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 SCIENCE
- RANGELAND RESOURCES
- EQUINE SCIENCE
- POULTRY MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE, SPECIALIZATION IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

6,000

acres adjacent to the San Luis Obispo campus core used for agricultural production, processing and research land and facilities. The department also assists in the management of the 3,200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County, California.

In 2018, Cal Poly had more students accepted into the veterinary medicine program at UC Davis than any other university nationwide, outside of UC Davis.
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.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAIRY INNOVATION INSTITUTE
Cal Poly’s Dairy Innovation Institute is one of the most advanced academic facilities in the U.S. Students are closely involved in dairy research and development.

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.

ON THE JOB CAREERS
Animal husbandry technician
Assistant operations manager
Range conservationist
Veterinary assistant
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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