Since 1901, the college has used a Learn by Doing approach to prepare leaders in sustainable agriculture, food systems, and environmental and life sciences who are equipped to contribute to the diverse needs of society and meet state and global demands.

Adjacent to the San Luis Obispo campus core, nearly 6,000 acres of agricultural production, processing and research land and facilities are available to students. The 3,200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County, California, provides forest, range and watershed resources for additional research and production. And, the 450-acre Bartleson Ranch in nearby Arroyo Grande, California, provides avocado and lemon groves for additional research.

Pastures are nestled between the lower slopes of Cuesta Ridge and Highway 1, and orchards, row crops and experimental crops thrive in the rich soil there. The campus farm contains animal units, environmental horticulture facilities, an arboretum, and an irrigation research center.

State-of-the-art facilities for meat processing, food processing, dairy processing and research, and wine production provide students with a learning experience that prepares them for the industries that await them.
DEPARTMENTS AND UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

AGRIBUSINESS:
Agricultural Business

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION:
Agricultural Science, Agricultural Communication

ANIMAL SCIENCE:
Animal Science, Dairy Science

BIORESOURCE AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING:
Agricultural Systems Management, BioResource and Agricultural Engineering

EXPERIENCE INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT:
Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION:
Food Science, Nutrition

HORTICULTURE AND CROP SCIENCE:
Agricultural and Environmental Plant Sciences

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES:
Environmental Earth and Soil Sciences, Environmental Management and Protection, Forestry and Natural Resources

WINE AND VITICULTURE
Wine and Viticulture

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Master of Agricultural Education
Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Management
Master of Science in Food Science
Master of Science in Nutrition
Master of Science in Agriculture with eight specializations in: BioResource & Agricultural Systems; Animal Science; Crop Science; Dairy Products Technology; Environmental Horticultural Science; Irrigation; Plant Protection Science; and Water Engineering

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES
Brock Center for Agricultural Communication
Center for Sustainability
Dairy Innovation Institute
Irrigation Training and Research Center
Strawberry Center
Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute

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RANKINGS

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences has the fifth largest undergraduate enrollment in agriculture and renewable resources programs in the nation.

A Cal Poly education pays dividends for decades, with Cal Poly tying for No. 37 for all institutions nationally in the 2017 rankings, according to the latest PayScale.com ranking of return on investment among the nation’s top colleges and universities.

Cal Poly has been named the best public, master’s-level university in the West by U.S. News & World Report’s annual America’s Best Colleges guidebook for 27 straight years.

The Cal Poly organic farm, located on 11-acres on campus, was ranked as the seventh in the nation by the independent website CollegeRank.net in 2017.

The college ranked fourth in the nation for agriculture degrees awarded to Hispanics and No. 4 for all minority students studying agriculture, according to Diverse Issues in Higher Education.

BY THE NUMBERS

3.98
The average high school GPA for incoming freshmen (2019)

4,172
Undergraduates enrolled (2019)

4,944
Freshman applications (2019)

1,039
of those freshmen were accepted (2019)

$46K
Average salary of graduates within one year of graduation

85%
of graduates go on to jobs directly related to their major

58
Counties in California represented by students applying to one of the nine departments within the college (2019)

50+
Student club and team opportunities