The Cal Poly Agricultural Education and Communication Department’s contribution to the agriculture industry is unparalleled in preparing passionate leaders to advance agricultural education and communication. Whether teaching the students of California about the application of science, management, fiber and natural resource systems or sharing the compelling story of agriculture, our graduates help shape public opinion about this billion-dollar industry.

Future agriculture teachers explore what it is like to be a veterinarian, agricultural mechanic, horticulturist, agronomist, large and small livestock producer, poultry producer, rancher and agricultural leader. Cal Poly teacher candidates are required to complete a full semester of student teaching in a California high school.

In addition to the department’s long history of leadership and service to the state’s agricultural education profession, it also boasts California’s only agricultural communication major, widely considered one of the country’s premier undergraduate programs. Through a partnership with the university’s Brock Center for Agricultural Communication, plus unique Learn by Doing opportunities, students gain the necessary knowledge to be effective communicators who are fully equipped to promote agriculture and serve the needs of the industry.

MAJORS: Agricultural Science; Agricultural Communication

GRADUATE PROGRAMS: Credential Program in Agriculture; Master of Agricultural Education Degree

MINORS: Agricultural Communication; Agricultural Education
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

$51,500
Starting salary for agricultural generalists.

$63,470
Average base salary of a beginning agriculture teacher.

Clubs, Teams & Enterprises
The many department clubs and organizations available to students include: Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, a professional organization that provides development opportunities for students aspiring to promote agriculture through advocacy, industry relations, public policy and communication; Alpha Tau Alpha, a national scholastic fraternity that promotes agricultural education; Latinos in Agriculture, an affinity student organization that provides opportunities for students, and Agricultural Leadership Society which makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership.

On the Job
Alumni have gone on to work as social media directors, sales coordinators, harvest supervisors, marketing specialists, attorneys and teachers. Employers include Advantis Global, Dole Food Company, Mulholland Citrus Delite, Ag-Seeds Unlimited, Church Brothers Farms, school districts throughout California, The Wonderful Company, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Department of Education, Corteva Agriscience, United States House of Representatives, Big Red Marketing, Target, Driscoll’s, FleishmanHillard, Oracle, Broadhead, World Wide Sires, LTD., Daou Vineyards, Valent, California Cattlemen’s Association, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Union Pacific Railroad, West Coast Advisors, John Deere and various farm bureaus.

Brock Center for Agricultural Communication
The Brock Center serves as a learning laboratory for students interested in sharing agriculture’s story — from the political arena to the rodeo arena and the produce fields to field offices. The Brock Center is dedicated to producing professional agricultural communicators who make a positive impact on our nation’s most vital industry.

Department of Education-Approved
Cal Poly is approved by the California Department of Education’s Agricultural Education Unit and the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing to prepare individuals to teach at the junior high, high school and community college level. Upon completion of the agriculture teacher preparation program at Cal Poly, students are uniquely qualified to teach vocational and/or general agriculture anywhere in California — and the U.S.