



CAL POLY

College of Agriculture, Food
& Environmental Sciences

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 provide the resources for students to learn the principles required for successful careers in fields within the broad spectrum of animal related careers including veterinary medicine, research, livestock production and management, food processing, and a host of allied industries.

MAJORS

ANIMAL SCIENCE • DAIRY SCIENCE

MINORS

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

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE
- ANIMAL SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION
- DAIRY PRODUCTS TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIZATION



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, '23*)

STUDENT IMPACT



The academic laboratory components of many courses provide direct application of what is learned in lecture into practical application. At Cal Poly, from day one, students gain additional hands-on learning experiences in enterprise courses. Among the more than 30 enterprise courses students can choose to be involved in caring for broodmares and overseeing foaling, dairy and beef calving, working with sheep and goats, breeding cows, working at the swine

unit, raising poultry, riding and training horses, making cheese and ice cream, processing meat, making sausage and other products, managing the campus veterinary clinic and more.

In addition, students are involved in working with faculty in conducting animal and animal products related research. These kinds of hands-on opportunities are what make Cal Poly different than most universities.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

EARN BY DOING

In addition to the academic courses and enterprise courses, students gain additional practical work experience as student employees, assisting in the day-to-day operations of the 14 production units in the department. Students have the opportunity to work directly with animals at various units including equine, dairy, beef, beef cattle bull test, sheep and goats, as well as at the vet clinic, swine and poultry facilities. There is even a colony of African Leopard Tortoises that need daily care. Students also work at the Cal Poly Creamery making cheese and ice cream. These and other opportunities to learn are an important part of Cal Poly learning experience.

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 both fresh and specialty meat products including sausage, jerky and bacon.

OPPENHEIMER FAMILY EQUINE CENTER

The Oppenheimer Family Equine Center is among the newest facilities at Cal Poly. In addition to being a production facility with breeding, and foaling mares, there are extensive opportunities to participate in a variety of equitation courses, enterprise courses and competitive teams. Students are crucial in the training of horses, ultimately hosting the annual Cal Poly Performance Horse Sale.



ON THE JOB

CAREERS

Food processing
Livestock production management
Range conservation
Research
Veterinary medicine



STUDENT CLUBS

Cal Poly Dressage Team
Cal Poly Equestrian Team
Dairy Products Judging Team
Equine Eventing Team
Livestock and Dairy Judging Team
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

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