The Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences is globally recognized as a center of excellence in applied sciences through responsive scholarship, leadership and service to others.

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 prepared to address challenges related to food security and meet increasing environmental demands at both the state and global level.

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.
RANKINGS

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

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 29 straight years.

Cal Poly was named one of the top five leading universities for sustainable agriculture degree programs by BestValueSchools.org in 2021.

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

4,100
Students enrolled (2022)

18:1
faculty to staff ratio (2022)

50+
Student club and team opportunities

94%
of graduates go on to jobs directly related to their major

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

PLANT SCIENCES:
Plant Sciences

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES:
Environmental Earth and Soil Sciences
Environmental Management and Protection
Forest and Fire Sciences

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 and 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 Organic Production and Research
Center for Sustainability
Dairy Innovation Institute
Irrigation Training and Research Center
Strawberry Center
Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute

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