The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) Earn by Doing Internship Program is an opportunity for students to gain paid work experience at one or more of the college’s on-campus food and agricultural production units or departments. The program allows students to work part-time, up to 20 hours per week, gaining technical skills in positions directly related to their chosen careers. Students have historically been paid, but only when budgets permit, and many units are currently understaffed. With your support, we can continue to expand access to paid, hands-on learning opportunities that prepare more students for the work they will do after graduation.

I work in the greenhouses and orchards on campus to assist with pest management. My routine consists of scouting for and identifying pests, communicating pest activity reports to faculty advisors, and developing and implementing treatment plans. My favorite part of the job is becoming more familiar with different plant species.”

– Plant sciences student
WHY SUPPORT THE EARN BY DOING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM?

STUDENT IMPACT
Earn by Doing opportunities allow students to finance their education while gaining hands-on, industry-specific experience. Internships have the added benefit of allowing students to work on campus so they can easily transition from classroom to workplace.

CAMPUS IMPACT
The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences operates a variety of food and agricultural units across campus, including an animal nutrition center, veterinary hospital, rangelands, meat processing center, greenhouses, vineyards, organic farm, food science pilot plant, composting unit, strawberry research and production, and much more. Students working for the Earn by Doing Internship Program provide essential services to the college, ensuring that daily maintenance and operations of food and agricultural lands and facilities are well-managed.

INDUSTRY IMPACT
Students involved in the Earn by Doing Internship Program gain exposure to running agricultural facilities and enterprises, along with day-to-day curricular and industry-specific activities. The knowledge, technical skills, accountability and work ethic they gain through the program ensure our graduates are Ready Day One and benefit the community at large, preparing them to be tomorrow’s leaders.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

- Irrigation Assistant, Crops Unit
- Graphic Design Intern, Multiple Departments
- Student Mechanic, Ag Operations
- Production Assistant, Food Pilot Plant
- Student Herdsperson, Beef Unit
- Milking Supervisor, Dairy Unit
- Marketing and Social Media Intern, Multiple Departments
- Field Intern, Strawberry Center
- Viticulture Intern, Vineyard
- Feed Assistant, Animal Nutrition Center

Give now to CAFES Earn by Doing Internships at giving.calpoly.edu
Please designate your gift to the CAFES Dean’s Earn By Doing Fund (8500).