FOOD SCIENCE
FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW
Cal Poly’s Food Science and Nutrition Department offers a comprehensive education in food science and nutrition, from the development of new foods to the study of how foods impact health, wellness and disease prevention. The department’s exceptional Learn by Doing methodology provides industry-ready graduates with the expertise to nourish the world.

Our students are directly involved in the community, participating in unique hands-on learning opportunities that enhance critical thinking and problem-solving. This active learning environment has earned Cal Poly and the Food Science and Nutrition Department tremendous respect throughout the industry.

The department’s on-campus food plant and laboratories provide top-of-the-line learning opportunities and promote safe, sustainable and nutritious foods through partnerships with the food industry.

MAJORS
FOOD SCIENCE • NUTRITION

MINORS
• FOOD SCIENCE
• NUTRITION

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
• MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SCIENCE
• MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION
• DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

FOOD SCIENCE CONCENTRATIONS
• ADVANCED FOOD SCIENCE (INSTITUTE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS-APPROVED)
• CULINOLOGY (RESEARCH CHEFS ASSOCIATION-APPROVED)

NUTRITION CONCENTRATIONS
• APPLIED NUTRITION (ACEND ACCREDITED)
• NUTRITION SCIENCE

STUDENT CLUBS
Food Science Club
Nutrition Club

$22,000+
in scholarship funding is available for food science and nutrition students

~176
students receive scholarships or are involved in paid opportunities in the Food Science and Nutrition Department

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD SCIENCE BLENDED PROGRAM
The program offers students the opportunity to pursue their bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in food science at the same time, graduating within five years.
BOSWELL AG TECH CENTER
The new center, opened to students fall 2023, serves as a hub for students, faculty and industry to gather and share knowledge to drive the food industry forward in the areas of food safety, culinary development and sensory evaluation.

ON THE JOB
CAREERS
Culinologist
Food processing
Food safety
Food service
Operations management
Product development
Quality control
Research chef
Sensory evaluation

EXAMPLES OF EMPLOYERS
Amy's Kitchen
Chosen Foods
Conagra Brands
Del Monte Foods
Frito-Lay
Impossible Foods

CAL POLY PRODUCED
Students make nine different flavors of chocolate bars, including specialty seasonal varieties. Students also produce jam and barbecue sauce. All products are made in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences’ Food Science and Nutrition Department’s Pilot Plant on campus. The mission of our food production programs is to supplement our student’s curriculum with hands-on learning and practical experience. Through this program, students gain exposure to research and development, good manufacturing practices, quality assurance, food safety and sanitation principles, as well as experience in sales and marketing for our value-added products. These activities provide students an opportunity to fortify the skills learned in their classes to prepare them for their future career in the food industry. Check out our latest department video at bit.ly/cpfoodsci.

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PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES
The Food Science Concentration in advanced Food Science is approved by the Institute of Food Technologist and the Culinary concentration is approved by the Research Chefs Association.