

ANIMAL SCIENCES, B.S.

Admissions to the Animal Science B.S. will be suspended as of spring 2024 and will be discontinued as of fall 2028. If you have any questions, please contact the department.

OVERVIEW

Studying the biology of domesticated animals helps us better understand their health. The major addresses important issues related to animal health and welfare, biomedical advancements, food safety, precision livestock farming, and land and water stewardship.

Students in the animal sciences major learn about cattle, swine, sheep, horses, poultry, and goats, as well as companion animals. They also examine recent discoveries connecting human and animal health.

The Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences is home to the undergraduate program in animal sciences. It produces skilled leaders in animal agriculture and sustainable food systems while embracing innovation and technology. A 10:1 student-faculty ratio and small classes allow for meaningful connections among students and instructors.

Students can take courses on an assortment of topics including animal breeding, veterinary genetics, animal health and welfare, animal nutrition, and companion animals including dogs and cats, and more. The major offers a science-focused path for students interested in veterinary medicine, animal science, medicine, or other graduate programs. Students can also focus on the business of animal sciences with classes in economics, accounting, marketing, farm management, and other courses.

Learn through hands-on, real world experiences

The program emphasizes hands-on learning, and students choose from more than a dozen lab courses covering animal handling, reproductive biology, veterinary genetics, meat processing, animal welfare, and more. Field courses look at international agriculture and sustainability. The department encourages animal sciences majors to get involved with internships and research with faculty and staff.

Build community and networks

Animal sciences majors find a welcoming community where professors know their students and can provide guidance based on their specific goals. Outside of the classroom, students can join several student organizations including the Pre Vet Club (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/prevetassociation/>), Badger Meat Science Club (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/badgermeatscienceclub/>), Saddle and Sirloin Club (<https://win.wisc.edu/organization/saddleandsirloin/>), and Poultry Club (<https://www.facebook.com/PoultryClubUWMadison/>). Competitions, such as animal welfare assessment and meat judging offer students unique networking experiences in the industry.

Customize a path of study

The variety of classes in the department, including paths that emphasize science or business, allows animal sciences students to customize their coursework to fit their career goals. Students can elect to complete Honors in Animal Sciences.

Make a strong start

The department offers an introductory seminar course that helps students maximize their education, develop professional skills, and make informed decisions about their classes, internships, and career opportunities.

Gain global perspective

Students are encouraged to study abroad; the department offers globally focused courses that look at livestock production, health, animal agriculture, and sustainable development. Students can explore studying abroad as an Animal Sciences major utilizing the Animal Sciences Major Advising Page. Students work with their advisor and the CALS study abroad office to identify appropriate programs.