

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

OVERVIEW

Students curious to discover how our living world works and how they can improve it – from the smallest microbe to ecosystem-wide weather patterns – will find a home in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Students explore global questions in these five CALS areas of study:

- Health and nutrition
- Food and agriculture
- Biological sciences
- Sustainability, natural resources, and the environment
- Business, communication, and society

CALS brings together students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds to create an enriching and welcoming culture that produces socially aware graduates who will make an impact locally and globally.

CALS students are passionate about using science to improve the world, and CALS programs encourage students to pursue their passions in the classroom and beyond.

CALS students gain critical thinking, research, and communication skills that lead them to careers in a wide variety of industries and public service – including biotechnology, healthcare, food, and agriculture – and prepare them well for graduate and professional studies at top-ranked institutions.

Students in all majors graduate on average in four years.

CALS faculty are involved in all aspects of student education, including teaching in classrooms, hosting research opportunities in labs, leading study abroad experiences, and providing professional mentorship to students.

CALS promotes working across disciplines; half of CALS students double-major or complete at least one certificate (similar to a minor).

As evidence of a strong community, CALS awards over \$1.2 million in scholarships supported by alumni and friends eager to give new students the same positive experiences they enjoyed. These awards are in addition to university scholarships, grants, and loans.

CALS Signature Experiences reflect the core values of a CALS education and offer a variety of options for students in all majors:

LEARN THROUGH HANDS-ON, REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

All CALS majors include a senior-level capstone course that integrates interdisciplinary knowledge to address a problem of societal relevance and also helps prepare students for their future careers. Additionally, most students complete independent research under the guidance of internationally-recognized faculty researchers.

BUILD COMMUNITY AND NETWORKS

With more than 20 CALS-sponsored student organizations, students can build their professional networks early and enhance their leadership skills.

Students also engage with faculty mentors, often for exploration of majors and career pathways.

CUSTOMIZE A PATH OF STUDY

More than half of CALS students double-major or complete at least one certificate (similar to a minor) to meet their goals and interests. To augment bachelor of science degrees for top students, CALS offers honors programs in research and in many majors.

MAKE A STRONG START

All CALS students take a First-Year Seminar to explore different areas of study, learn about how to access student services, and make friends. There are several seminars to choose from, including QuickStart (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/quick-start/>), an online course that allows students to begin their college career the summer before they arrive on campus.

GAIN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Because CALS disciplines have global reach, students take at least one course with a purposeful international focus, and many students choose to study abroad. CALS offers more than 34 abroad programs specifically designed to fulfill CALS students' academic, professional and personal goals. In total, CALS students can choose from more than 250 UW-Madison study abroad programs.

CALS students are growing the future through a better understanding of living things. Explore our majors and certificates (p.) to learn more.