ANIMAL AND VETERINARY BIOSCIENCES, BS

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 and Veterinary Biosciences major learn about cattle, swine, sheep, horses, poultry, and goats, as well as companion animals such as cats and dogs. 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 and Veterinary Biosciences. The department 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, physiology, and animal nutrition utilizing various animals as a vehicle for learning. The major offers a science-focused path for students interested in veterinary medicine, animal science, bioscience, or other graduate programs.

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, animal welfare, meat science and biologics, and more. Field courses look at international agriculture and sustainability. The department encourages Animal and Veterinary Biosciences majors to get involved with internships and research with faculty and staff.

BUILD COMMUNITY AND NETWORKS

Animal and Veterinary Biosciences 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-Veterinary Association (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/prevetassociation/), Saddle and Sirloin Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/saddleandsirloin/), Poultry Club (https://www.facebook.com/PoultryClubUWMadison/), Badger Dairy Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/badgerdairyclub/), and Badger Meat Science Club. (https://www.facebook.com/badgermeatscienceclub/)

CUSTOMIZE A PATH OF STUDY

Students can choose from a variety of breadth and depth courses to explore their interests within the major, customizing their coursework to fit their career goals. Course flexibility allows students to complete several pre-veterinary requirements, a certificate, or double major within the curriculum. Students can elect to complete Honors in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences.

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 paths. Multiple Animal Sciences courses are open to first-year students offering additional opportunities to establish connections to the major.

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 and Veterinary Biosciences major utilizing the Animal and Veterinary Biosciences Major Advising Page (https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics-major-advISING-pAGes-mAPS/animal-AND-VETERINARY-BIOSCIENCES/). Students work with their advisor and the CALS study abroad office (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/study-abroad/) to identify appropriate programs.

HOW TO GET IN

To declare this major, students must be admitted to UW–Madison and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). For information about becoming a CALS first-year or transfer student, see Entering the College (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/enteringthecollegecheckouttext). Students who attend Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have the option to declare this major at SOAR. Students may otherwise declare after they have begun their undergraduate studies. For more information, contact the advisor listed in the Contact Box for the major.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) section of the Guide.
Summary of Major Requirements

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Animal & Veterinary Biosciences Major Requirements

**Mathematics**
- Complete one of the following (or may be satisfied by placement exam):
  - MATH 112 Algebra
  - MATH 114 Algebra and Trigonometry

**Statistics**
- Complete one of the following:
  - STAT 301 Introduction to Statistical Methods
  - STAT 371 Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences

**Chemistry**
- Complete one of the following:
  - CHEM 103 & CHEM 104 General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II
  - CHEM 109 Advanced General Chemistry

**Biology**
- Complete one of the following:
  - BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 151 Introductory Biology
  - BIOLOGY/ZOOLOGY 101 & BIOLOGY/ZOOLOGY 102 Animal Biology and Animal Biology Laboratory

**Biochemistry**
- Complete one of the following:
  - BIOCHEM 301 Survey of Biochemistry
  - BIOCHEM 501 Introduction to Biochemistry

**Introduction to the Major**
- Complete the following:
  - AN SCI/DY SCI 101 Introduction to Animal Sciences
  - AN SCI/DY SCI 102 Laboratory

**Animal Science Core**
- Complete four courses from the following:
  - AN SCI 245 Animal Welfare
  - AN SCI/DY SCI/NUTR SCI 311 Comparative Animal Nutrition
Animal and Veterinary Biosciences, BS

AN SCI/ DY SCI 320 Animal Health and Disease
AN SCI/ DY SCI 361 Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Genetics
AN SCI/ DY SCI 373 Animal Physiology

Animal Biology Depth
Complete at least 10 credits from the following: 10
AN SCI 245 Animal Welfare
AN SCI/DY SCI 305 Introduction to Meat Science and Technology
AN SCI/DY SCI/NUTR SCI 311 Comparative Animal Nutrition
AN SCI 320 Animal Health and Disease
AN SCI 336 Animal Growth and Development
AN SCI 361 Introduction to Animal and Veterinary Genetics
AN SCI 362 Veterinary Genetics
or AN SCI 363 Principles of Animal Breeding
AN SCI 366 Concepts in Genomics
AN SCI 373 Animal Physiology
DY SCI 378 Lactation Physiology
AN SCI/DY SCI 414 Ruminant Nutrition & Metabolism
AN SCI 415 Application of Monogastric Nutrition Principles
AN SCI 420 Microbiomes of Animal Systems
AN SCI/DY SCI 434 Reproductive Physiology

Major Breadth
Complete at least 12 credits from the following: 12
AN SCI 200 The Biology and Appreciation of Companion Animals
DY SCI 233 Dairy Herd Management I
DY SCI 234 Dairy Herd Management II
AN SCI/BSE 344 Digital Technologies for Animal Monitoring
AN SCI 399 Coordinative Internship/Cooperative Education (Footnote 2 applies to both AN SCI 399 and 699) 2
or AN SCI 699 Special Problems
A AE 422 Food Systems and Supply Chains
AN SCI 431 Beef Cattle Production
AN SCI 432 Swine Production
AN SCI/FOOD SCI 515 Commercial Meat Processing
DY SCI 534 Reproductive Management of Dairy Cattle
BIOLOGY/BOTANY/ZOOLOGY 152 Introductory Biology

or BIOLOGY/BOTANY 130 General Botany
CHEM 343 Organic Chemistry I
PHYSICS 103 General Physics
MICROBIO 303 Biology of Microorganisms
M M & I/ENTOM/PATH-BIO/ZOOLOGY 350 Parasitology

Capstone in Major
Complete one of the following: 2-3
AN SCI 435 Animal Sciences Proseminar
DY SCI 535 Dairy Farm Management Practicum

Total Credits 58-66

1 Courses cannot count for both Animal Science Core and Depth.
2 Maximum of 3 credits.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR
Students admitted to the university and to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are invited to apply to be considered for admission to the CALS Honors Program.

Admission Criteria for New First-Year Students:
- Complete program application including essay questions

Admission Criteria for Transfer and Continuing UW-Madison Students:
- UW-Madison cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
- Complete program application including essay questions

HOW TO APPLY
The application is available on the CALS Honors Program website (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/). Applications are accepted at any time.

New first-year students with accepted applications will automatically be enrolled in Honors in Research. It is possible to switch to Honors in the Major in the student’s first semester on campus after receiving approval from the advisor for that major. Transfer and continuing students may apply directly to Honors in Research or Honors in the Major (after approval from the major advisor).

REQUIREMENTS
All CALS Honors programs have the following requirements:
- Earn at least a cumulative 3.25 GPA at UW-Madison (some programs have higher requirements)
- Complete the program-specific requirements listed below
- Submit completed thesis documentation to CALS Academic Affairs

REQUIREMENTS
To earn honors in the major, students are required to take at least 20 honors credits. In addition, students must take AN SCI 681 Senior Honor Thesis and AN SCI 682 Senior Honors Thesis when completing their thesis project; please see the honors program page (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/) for more information.
UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree
To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency
Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Define biological processes and explain their role in animal health and management
2. Apply scientific concepts and critical thinking skills to identify and analyze real world problems in animal and veterinary biosciences
3. Develop scientific competencies and communication skills needed for advanced careers in animal or veterinary biosciences

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

Below you will find three sample four-year plans. These plans represent a range of interest and career-based options for completing the Animal and Veterinary Biosciences major. Your individual plan will look different from these plans. You should customize your own program of study in consultation with your advisor. The degree requires a minimum of 120 credits for completion.

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN - VETERINARY INTEREST

First Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
AN SCI/DY SCI 101 3 CHEM 103 4
AN SCI/DY SCI 102 1 Major Breadth 3
AN SCI 135 (CALS First-Year Seminar) 1 General Education 3
Humanities Breadth 3 Ethnic Studies 3
MATH 112 or 114 3-5 Elective 3
COMM A 3

14-16

Second Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
ZOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 151 5 ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY/BOTANY 152 (Major Breadth) 5
STAT 301 3 CHEM 343 (Major Breadth) 3
CHEM 104 5 General Education 3
Animal Science Core 3 Animal Science Core 2-3

16 13-14

Third Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
PHYSICS 103 (Major Breadth) 4 Animal Science Core 3
Animal Biology Depth 3 Animal Science Core 2-3
Animal Biology Depth 3 Animal Biology Depth 2-3
CALS International Studies 3 COMM B 3
BIOCHEM 501 3 Electives 3-4

16 13-16

Fourth Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
AN SCI 435 or DY SCI 535 (Capstone) 2 Animal Biology Depth 3
Electives 3 12-14 Electives 3 11-12

14-16 14-15

Total Credits 116-125

1 This four-year plan reflects the minimum required coursework for UW–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine as of 2022-2023. Course requirements may vary among schools of veterinary medicine. Consult with your institution of choice and your advisor to ensure that the courses you select meet specific requirements.
2 Pre-veterinary students with a focus on dairy could select an alternate set of dairy-focused courses to meet Animal Biology Depth and Capstone requirements (DY SCI 378, DY SCI/AN SCI 414, DY SCI 534, and DY SCI 535).
Animal Biology Depth courses can be moved to 4th year to allow for certificate coursework during the first three years.
3 Electives will include additional coursework for veterinary school preparation.

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN - ANIMAL PRODUCTION INTEREST

First Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
AN SCI/DY SCI 101 3 A A E 101 (Social Science Breadth) 4
AN SCI/DY SCI 102 1 ZOOLOGY/BIOLOGY 101 3
AN SCI 135 (CALS First-Year Seminar) 1 COMM B 3
Humanities Breadth 3-5 Ethnic Studies 3
COMM A 3 Elective 3
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**SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN - GENERAL ANIMAL AND VETERINARY BIOSCIENCES INTEREST**

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**ADVISORY AND CAREERS**

**ADVISORY AND CAREERS**

**ADVISORY**

Each student receives one-on-one guidance from their professional advisor. Academic advisors will help students build an individualized, four-year plan. Many Animal and Veterinary Biosciences majors complete certificates or double majors. Customary examples include Life Sciences Communication, Genetics and Genomics, Global Health, CALS Business Management, and opportunities outside of CALS such as foreign languages, depending on students’ interests.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

All students have a faculty mentor to assist with their career planning.

Students graduating with a degree in Animal and Veterinary Biosciences can enter a number of career fields. These include nutrition and genetics, health and welfare, animal management and monitoring technology, meat science and biologics, food and animal research, and teaching. Many students go on to pursue professional education in veterinary medicine, graduate programs in animal science, or human medicine.

**PEOPLE**

**PROFESSORS**

- Weigel, Kent (Chair)
- Khatib, Hasan (Associate Chair)
- Adcock, Sarah
- Arrizola Apelo, Sebastian
- Cabrera, Victor
- Claus, Jim
- Crenshaw, Thomas
- Dorea, Joao
- Ferrareto, Luiz
- Frick, Paul
- Gregg, Sara
- Guo, Wei
INSTRUCTORS/LECTURERS
Kean, Ron
O’Rourke, Bernadette
Ronk, Eric

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR
Sandberg, Liv

See also: https://andysci.wisc.edu/about-us/faculty-and-staff/

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE
INTERNSHIPS
Animal and Veterinary Biosciences majors take part in a number of internships around campus and beyond. Past students interned at veterinary clinics and hospitals, genetics companies, animal feed companies, Extension, food companies, farms, animal pharmaceutical companies, animal councils, humane societies, and more.

On-campus opportunities at department animal care facilities, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, and at Bucky’s Varsity Meats, give students hands-on experience each semester.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
There are numerous opportunities to conduct research with faculty and staff in the department. Around 75% of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences majors have completed independent study projects. Several research stipends are available and some students also take part in research as part of an honors thesis.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
By joining a student organization, Animal and Veterinary Biosciences majors connect with other students and build relationships with faculty and staff. Organizations of particular interest to Animal and Veterinary Biosciences students include the Pre Vet Association (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/prevetassociation/), Saddle and Sirloin Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/saddleandpirloin/), Poultry Club (https://www.facebook.com/PoultryClubUWMadison/), Badger Dairy Club (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/badgerdairyclub/), and Badger Meat Science Club (https://www.facebook.com/badgermeatscienceclub/).

There are additional opportunities for students to get involved in animal or agriculture-related organizations on campus, such as the Hoofer Riding Club (https://www.hooferriding.org/), Association of Women in Agriculture (http://awamadison.org/), Babcock House (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/babcock_house/), and Collegiate FFA (http://collegiateffamadison.weebly.com/).

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
The department encourages students to study abroad and offers globally focused courses that look at animal health, animal agriculture, and sustainable development. Students can find more information on the International Academic Programs website (https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/) and the CALS study abroad advising page (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/international-programs/study-abroad-advising/).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING
Animal and Veterinary Biosciences students engage in a number of volunteer opportunities including working at the Livestock Lab, the Poultry Research Lab, the Dairy Cattle Center, Bucky’s Varsity Meats, and Animal Farm Units. Students also participate in undergraduate student recruitment events, 4-H and Extension events, Dane County Humane Society, and spay/neuter clinics.

On campus, the Morgridge Center for Public Service (https://morggridge.wisc.edu/) provides resources to help students connect with volunteer opportunities based on their interests and goals.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS
The Animal and Veterinary Biosciences program awards $25,000–$35,000 in annual scholarships. Students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences receive more than $1.25 million in scholarships annually. Learn more about college scholarships here (https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate-students/financing-your-education/cals-scholarships/).

Campus facilities offering students hands-on experiences:

- The Livestock Laboratory accommodates research on multiple species and includes a surgery room.
- The Poultry Research Laboratory houses chickens and other birds.
- The state-of-the-art Meat Science & Animal Biologics Discovery Building houses a meat processing facility, retail shop, and advanced laboratories.
- A network of off-campus Agricultural Research Stations serve as living laboratories for agricultural animal research.
- The School of Veterinary Medicine Animal clinics and research labs offer experiences for undergraduate students.
- The Dairy Cattle Center houses more than 80 dairy cows on campus in a tie-stall barn.