

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.