

MSc and MPS Animal Sciences Degree Programs Learning Goals

Approved by the Graduate Faculty members of the MSc and MPS Animal Sciences degree programs

February 28, 2022

MSc and MPS Animal Sciences Degree Programs Mission Statement:

*The mission of the MS and MPS Animal Sciences degree programs of the University of Maine is to produce **engaged scholars and professionals** by promoting excellence in all aspects of the graduate student experience. These programs provide advanced education and professional training through innovative teaching, mentorship, research, and creative activity in established and emerging areas of Animal Sciences. This rigorous education prepares students to **contribute meaningfully** to the advancement of the state of Maine, the nation and the global community.*

The MS and MPS Animal Sciences degree programs prepare engaged scholars and professionals to make meaningful contributions to their communities of practice. As graduate students are key agents in helping to sustain an environment supportive of learning through teaching, collaborative inquiry, mentoring or demonstration, they are critical ambassadors for public higher education during their coursework and after graduation.

During and after graduate training, accordingly, the Animal Science MSc degree program will enable students to:

Understand, interpret, shape, and augment the knowledge base by

- Contributing research, scholarship, creative work, and informed practice to our developing understanding of animal sciences, including health and production areas.
- Staying abreast of methodological, pedagogical, and professional advances in animal sciences;
- Consuming animal science research for continuing professional knowledge and practice; and;
- Committing to professional development through engagement in relevant professional societies and other knowledge-transfer modes.

Share disciplinary expertise openly, effectively, and accurately by

- Accurately distilling and disseminating complex expertise to help solve problems affecting society in general and the animal industry in particular;
- Responsibly integrating developing research consensus into professional best-practices related to animal sciences;
- Working collaboratively across domains to develop new insights and effective practices in animal sciences;
- Responding with principled recommendations to emerging concerns that confront their communities of practice; and

- Respectfully observing (and where necessary, helping to shape) the communicative conventions of the animal science community.

Demonstrate responsible and ethical practice by

- Attending to sustainability, responsiveness, and potential long-term implications when engaging local-global context and communities;
- Learning from and working respectfully with diverse cultural perspectives, knowledge-systems, and priorities;
- Giving and acting on productive feedback;
- Complying with best-practices in methodology and pedagogy and in making informed recommendations to employers, coworkers and the broader public;
- Maintaining a critical awareness of structural inequities in their communities of practice and working to redress them; and
- Assuring that context- and discipline-informed modes of inquiry are safe.