Animal and Veterinary Sciences

WHY STUDY ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES AT UMAINE?

The University of Maine animal and veterinary science curriculum is designed to provide broad biological training, as well as a thorough understanding of the anatomy, breeding, diseases, genetics, management, nutrition and physiology of farm animals, avian species, and laboratory and companion animals.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

UMaine’s Animal and Veterinary Sciences program offers a degree in Animal and Veterinary Sciences with an optional concentration in Pre-veterinary Sciences. The animal science degree is recommended for students who wish to pursue careers in animal agriculture, including the dairy, livestock or equine industries. Animal science courses also serve as elective opportunities for students in other agricultural and life sciences, and minors are available in animal and veterinary sciences or in equine studies.

The pre-veterinary concentration is recommended for superior students who seek admission to veterinary colleges. Suggested courses beyond the basic degree requirements in animal and veterinary sciences are those that are required or recommended for admission to colleges of veterinary medicine in North America.

THE ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES MINOR

The animal and veterinary sciences minor is intended for students from various backgrounds who wish to adapt their education to animals: dairy, livestock or equine. Prior to enrolling in the minor, students must consult with the student academic services coordinator in the School of Food and Agriculture to select the courses most appropriate to their background and career goals, and to discuss any course substitutions that may be appropriate. Students who wish to emphasize equine classes, including equitation classes, should consider the equine studies minor rather than the animal and veterinary sciences minor.

OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM

Students may also continue their studies at the graduate level after the completion of an undergraduate degree. The school offers a master of science degree in animal science for programs of study in animal nutrition, pathology and reproductive physiology. A doctor of philosophy degree may be earned in food and nutrition sciences, biological sciences, biochemistry, molecular biology or through the individualized Ph.D. program.

The academic program emphasizes:

• A rigorous applied science curriculum
• Using knowledge to solve real-world problems associated with animal management
• On-campus instruction from an experienced group of animal science and veterinary faculty with herds of horses and dairy cows and a flock of Icelandic sheep.

HANDBS-ON EXPERIENCE

Pre-veterinary students need 300 hours of field experience working with one or more veterinarians for their application to veterinary college. Alternatively, animal science students complete a field experience of at least 320 hours related to their potential career interest, such as an internship on a sheep farm, a zoo, or working at a veterinary clinic.

• At UMaine’s J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center, AVS majors are given numerous opportunities to increase their competency with, and eventually manage, dairy cattle and standardbred horses. We consider the experiential learning at the
Witter Center to be a vital part of our students' education because it allows them to solve practical problems on a working farm.

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

• Maine Animal Club competes each year with schools in the Northeast in livestock judging, quiz bowl and paper presentations.

• Standardbred Drill Team shows and promotes the sales of the university-owned standardbred horses.

• Dressage Club competes within the Intercollegiate Dressage Association.

• Equestrian Team competes in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association and plays an active role on campus and in the community.

• Pre-Vet Club is actively involved in the UMaine community. Annual trips have included Tufts Veterinary School, Cornell Veterinary School and Atlantic Veterinary College, Prince Edward Island.

• UMADCOWS students work as a team to manage the milking, feeding, reproduction, genetics and health of the registered Holstein cows, replacement calves and heifers at the J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center.

• Ewe Maine Icelandics Sheep Club provides hands-on experience with the flock of registered Icelandic sheep at the J. Franklin Witter Teaching & Research Center.

• Poultry Club: The University of Maine Cooperative League of University Chicken Keepers (UMCLUCKS) is a student-led group that plans and cares for poultry projects on campus.

• CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

• Veterinarian or medical doctor (after successful completion of veterinary or medical school)

• Technical sales and service work in animal agriculture

• Laboratory animal technician/manager

• Dairy or livestock farm employee

• Equine boarding or training stable employee

• Food processing industry employee

• Positions with Cooperative Extension

• Livestock feed and drug sales personnel

• Agribusiness loan organization staff

• Agricultural consulting company staff

• Humane care associations employee

• Educator

• Dog groomers and trainers

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.