

Update from the Animal Science Undergraduate Teaching Section - 2014

A.S. Leaflet R3040

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Overview

Undergraduate student enrollment in the Animal Science department continues to increase. A total of 1,077 undergraduate students set another new record this fall. Placement numbers also remain high, with over 97% of graduates either entering graduate or professional school or gaining employment within six months of graduation.

Prospective and their families that visited the department totaled 598 in 2014. In past year's,

approximately 60% of these students enroll in Animal Science at ISU.

Construction was completed on the Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center and the Equine Learning Center, both on Mortensen Road. These new facilities have greatly expanded the student hands-on experiences.

Enrollment Increases Continue

Total enrollment at Iowa State University reached 33,241 students (an increase of 2,201 from last year) in the Fall of 2013. Undergraduate students numbered 27,659 (an increase of 2,106 from last year). Students enrolled in Animal Science, Dairy Science, or General Pre-Veterinary Medicine totaled 1,077. This is the eighth consecutive year of increase and record enrollment for the department.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	922
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	53
General Pre-Vet undergraduate majors	102
Total ANS departmental undergraduates	1077
Animal Science graduate students	76
Total undergraduates, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	4,475
Total undergraduate and graduate students at Iowa State University	34,732

* The Animal Science department manages the undeclared pre-veterinary medicine program (General Pre-veterinary Medicine) for the university.

Student Demographics

Fall 2014 entering freshmen have varied interests. Using electronic response pads ("clickers") in the required ANS 110 course, 297 students answered the following questions:

"My primary species of interest is:"

Beef Cattle	16.38%
Dairy Cattle	6.83%
Sheep	1.02%
Goats	2.39%
Poultry	1.02%
Companion Animals	31.40%
Swine	9.56%
Horses	15.02%
Exotic Animals	16.38%

"My first choice for post-graduation plans is:"

Veterinary school	43.92%
Graduate school	10.47%
Production livestock	17.91%
Zoo industry	5.07%
Equine industry	4.73%
Comp. animal industry	3.72%
Meats and food safety	1.01%
Undecided	13.18%

**It is important to remember that these data are generated from freshmen students towards the end of their first semester at ISU. These data usually shift throughout the students' career. This is the second year of data collection in this manner. These students will be followed and data collected before graduation to assess shifts and trends.

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2015

Placement

Graduates of the Animal Science department continue to be in high demand. Students completing their degrees in Fall 2012- Spring 2013 and responding to the survey published in the 2013 CALS Career Services report totaled 135. According to the survey, 131 of the 135 graduates (97.04%) were employed or enrolled in further educational opportunities such as graduate school or veterinary school.

Additionally, the types of employers are increasing for Animal Science and Dairy Science graduates. Some employers include: Mayo Clinic, Nestle Purina Pet Care, Aviagen, USDA-ARS, Harris Vaccines, JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, Smithfield Foods and Grant's Farm. Graduate and professional school continues to be a popular option for many graduates (n = 45).

First Destination of 2012-2013 Animal and Dairy Science Graduates

Graduates responding	135
Placed or further education	131
Employment within Iowa	71
Further education	60
Estimated starting salary (ANS)	\$26,000 - \$58,000
Average starting salary (ANS)	\$38,227
Estimated starting salary (DYS)	\$38,000 - \$45,000
Average starting salary (DYS)	\$41,000

*Source: ISU CALS Career Center Annual Report/2014

Internships and Study Abroad

Students continue to take advantage of internship opportunities. According to the CALS Career Center Annual Report, over 16% of CALS student internships result in a full-time job offer upon graduation. It is also noted that more students are completing multiple internships, resulting in students seeking internship opportunities earlier in their college career. Events the evening before the fall CALS Career Fair, such as MEAT Your Future and Swine Industry Night, give our students the opportunity to visit with industry representatives in a smaller, more intimate setting, and serves as a "warm up" for career fair. In a recent survey published by the CALS Career Center, 39.7% of students found their internship at one of the two CALS Career Fairs, while 39.3% attributed landing their internship to personal networking.

Students are also interested in study abroad experiences. In 2014, Animal Science faculty led international travel courses to France/Italy, Denmark/Sweden, Brazil, and New Zealand. Several students also participate in study abroad trips led by faculty outside of Animal Science. It is apparent that there is an increased demand to provide these experiences, and that they are considered valuable by employers.

New Faculty

Dr. Jennifer Bundy was hired as a lecturer in August, 2014. Dr. Bundy received her B.S. in Animal Science from the University of Missouri and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska before working in the swine genetic industry. Dr. Bundy will be teaching animal breeding and genetics as well as advising undergraduates.

Discussion

Similar to years past, increased undergraduate student enrollment in the Animal Science Department continues to challenge the resources of the teaching faculty, but have not decreased the placement rate of graduates. Students continue to explore opportunities in the industry through internships and international experiences. Campus visits with prospective students and their parents continue to indicate an outstanding reputation of the ISU Department of Animal Science.