



# Animal Sciences

1413 Animal Sciences Center

(301) 405-1366

<http://www.ansc.umd.edu/>

College of Agricultural & Natural Resources

---

## Key Features of an Animal Science Major

- Choose from five different specialties: Animal Care and Management; Equine Studies; Science/Pre-Professional; Combined Ag-Veterinary Medicine; and Animal Biotechnology.
- Study in an up-to-date facility, with labs, animal rooms, a surgery, and a teaching farm.
- Enjoy proximity to the nation's top research facilities, including the National Institute of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Agricultural Library.
- Gain practical animal management experience participating in one of the on-campus cooperatives, conducting research in conjunction with a faculty member or pursuing an internship.

## Career Options and Salaries with an Animal Science Major

Depending upon their specialty or field concentration, animal scientists work in a variety of related careers. Some go on to pursue careers as veterinarians, whether for domestic house pets, farm animals, or more exotic animals such as those found in zoos. Animal scientists who enjoy research and laboratory work may become managers of animal laboratories for universities, biotechnology firms, and other places of research. Many, of course, pursue careers in a more agricultural environment, working to develop better, more efficient ways of producing and processing meat, poultry, eggs, and milk. Dairy scientists, poultry scientists, animal breeders, and other scientists in related fields study the genetics, nutrition, reproduction, and growth of domestic farm animals. Some inspect and grade livestock food products, purchase livestock, or work in technical sales or marketing.

In 2015, the median annual salary for Animal Scientists was \$62,470. For veterinarians, the median annual salary in 2015 was \$88,490.

*Career and salary information taken from Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-2015 ed.*  
[\(http://stats.bls.gov/oco/\)](http://stats.bls.gov/oco/).

## Advising

If you would like to learn more about the Animal Science major, you should contact the Advising Office within the department and arrange an appointment with an advisor.

- Ms. Libby Dufour, Assistant Director, Undergraduate Office ([libbyd@umd.edu](mailto:libbyd@umd.edu))
- Room 1415, Animal Sciences Center
- (301) 405-1373

## Declaring an Animal Science Major

*Animal Science is not a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP). You can declare this major at any time!*

If you are interested in switching to ANSC, you are required to attend a major change seminar. Please contact Libby Dufour at [libbyd@umd.edu](mailto:libbyd@umd.edu) if you would like to sign up for one of these sessions. You must sign up to attend the session, and you must attend a session to be eligible to change to the ANSC major.

Prior to attending the session, you should visit the department website and familiarize yourself with the courses required for the option you are interested in. The main Prospective Students page walks you through exploring their options: <http://ansc.umd.edu/undergraduate/prospective-students>. You can find curriculum worksheets and sample course plans for all of the options on the Program Requirements page: <http://ansc.umd.edu/undergraduate/program-requirements>.

At the session, you will learn about the differences in major options, and be given tools to formulate a plan of how you would complete your ANSC requirements in a timely manner.

After attending the session, you will be required to create and submit a semester by semester academic plan for completing the required coursework. This plan will be reviewed, and admittance to the major will be granted pending approval of your academic plan and subsequent submission of a signed benchmark contract. You should be aware that after the end of the Schedule Adjustment Period, (usually the first two weeks of classes), your major change cannot go into effect until the following semester.

Please see <http://www.ansc.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising/advising-guide> for further information on advising policies within the Animal Sciences Department.

**Four-Year Plan (GEN ED)**  
**(Science/Pre-Professional Option)**

First Year:

ANSC 101	3	BSCI 170/171 (NL)	4
ANSC 103	1	CHEM 231	3
MATH 220, 130 or 140 (MA/AR)	3-4	CHEM 232	1
CHEM 131/132 (NL)	4	ELECTIVE	3
ENGL 101 (AW)	3	AREC 250 or ECON 200 (HS)	3-4
14-15 credits		14-15 credits	

Second Year:

CHEM 241	3	CHEM 271	3
CHEM 242	1	CHEM 272	1
ANSC 211	4	ANSC 212	3
Oral Communication (OC)	3	ANSC 214	1
BSCI 160/161 (NL)	4	UP/CC	3
15 credits		HS	3
		HU	3
		17 credits	

Third Year:

ANSC 314	3	ANSC 315	3
BSCI 223	4	ANSC 327	3
ANSC Management Course	3	Professional Writing	3
HU	3	SP	3
Elective	3	BCHM 463 or BSCI 330	3-4
14 credits		15-16 credits	

Fourth Year:

ANSC Advanced Elective	3	ANSC Advanced Elective	3
Exp Learning (Opt. Gen-Ed)	1-3	PHYS 122	4
ANSC Advanced Elective	3	BIOM301 (suggested elective)	3
PHYS 121	4	Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
14-16 credits		16 credits	

**TOTAL = 120 credits**

**Four-Year Plan (CORE)**  
**(Science/Pre-Professional Option)**

First Year:

ANSC 101	3	BSCI 105	4
ANSC 103	1	CHEM 231	3
MATH 220, 130 or 140	3-4	CHEM 232	1
CHEM 131	3	ELECTIVE	3
CHEM 132	1	AREC 250 or ECON 200	3-4
ENGL 101	3		
	14-15 credits		14-15 credits

Second Year:

CHEM 241	3	CHEM 271	3
CHEM 242	1	CHEM 272	1
ANSC 211	3	ANSC 212	3
Diversity	3	ANSC 214	1
BSCI 106	4	HL/HA/HO/SH	3
	14 credits	HL/HA/HO/SH	3
		Elective	3
			17 credits

Third Year:

ANSC 314	3	ANSC 315	3
BSCI 223	4	ANSC 327	3
ANSC Management Course	3	Professional Writing	3
HL/HA/HO/SH	3	SB	3
	14 credits	BCHM 463 or BSCI 330	3-4
			15-16 credits

Fourth Year:

ANSC Advanced Elective	3	ANSC Advanced Elective	3
Advanced Studies CORE	3	PHYS 122	4
ANSC Advanced Elective	3	Advanced Studies CORE	3
PHYS 121	4	HL/HA/HO/SH	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
	16 credits		16 credits

**TOTAL = 120 credits**

## Q & A

### ***What kinds of hands-on animal/research experience can I get through the Animal Science Department?***

The Department teaches most classes using a comparative approach. This means faculty teach the general principles and use the species differences to help emphasize the principles. A flock of sheep (20 ewes) are kept on campus the year around and used in various classes. In addition, 7 or 8 horses are kept on campus the year around for both classes and the use of the Equestrian Club. Two cattle live on campus the year-around and the Department brings pigs, turkeys, and other animals on campus for teaching. Colonies of mice, rats, quail, chickens, rabbits, and fish are housed on campus for research purposes. Off-campus, the Department has poultry, horse, and cattle farms for research.

Many undergrad students get extensive experience with domestic pets while working at small animal veterinary clinics, so we cover those species in detail in lectures. Undergrads can volunteer or intern in research labs, or they can work in paid positions. The latter is more common in ANSC research labs and advisers help undergrads find these kinds of positions. Additional opportunities exist working with zoo animals at the National Zoo. In the past, ANSC students have gone to China to work on the Giant Panda project or with various species at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. All of those projects are through collaborative efforts with ANSC faculty.

### ***How can an Animal Science degree enhance my chances for getting into veterinary school?***

In ANSC, you take a semester of anatomy where you dissect a whole goat, and parts of other species to illustrate species differences. You also take a year of physiology and a year of nutrition. There are also disease-related courses and other electives.

The ANSC students who get to veterinary school tell us that they feel that they're more prepared than most of their classmates for veterinary school due to their ANSC courses. Most students who apply to veterinary schools with ANSC degrees, get in. Going through our sciences/professional option follows a curriculum that will not only meet the minimum requirements to apply to most veterinary schools, but will leave them well qualified for other professional degrees and career options.