

Update from the Animal Science Undergraduate Teaching Section - 2015

A.S. Leaflet R

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Overview

Undergraduate student enrollment in the Animal Science department continues to increase. A total of 1,112 undergraduate students set another new record this fall (2015). Placement numbers also remain high, with over

97% of graduates either entering graduate or professional school or gaining employment within six months of graduation.

Enrollment Increases Continue

Total enrollment at Iowa State University reached 36,001 students (an increase of 2,760 from last year) in the Fall of 2015. 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 1,112. This is the tenth consecutive year of increase and record enrollment for the department.

Animal Science undergraduate majors	977
Dairy Science undergraduate majors	43
General Pre-Vet undergraduate majors	92
Total ANS departmental undergraduates	1112

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

Student Demographics:

Fall 2015 entering freshmen have varied interests. Using electronic response pads (“clickers”) in the required ANS 110 course, 315 students answered the following questions at the beginning of their first semester at ISU:

“What best describes your background?”

Rural/Farm	42%
Urban/City (>100,000 pop.)	28%
Small Town/City (<100,000)	32%

“My primary species of interest is:”

Beef Cattle	16%
Dairy Cattle	6%
Sheep	2%
Goats	2%
Poultry	1%
Companion Animals	34%
Swine	8%
Horses	19%
Exotic Animals	12%

“What best describes your current primary career goal?”

Veterinary school	62%
Farm or Ranch Management	14%
Graduate School	8%
Industry (Sales, Mktg., QA, etc.)	9%
Zookeeper/Kennel Management	7%

It is important to remember that these data are generated from freshmen and transfer students towards the **beginning of their first semester at ISU. These data usually shift throughout the students’ career. Freshmen and transfer students enrolled in ANS 110 were asked to indicate their interest in various careers at the beginning and again at the end of the semester. At the beginning of the semester, 62% (315 responding) indicated the veterinary school was their primary interest. The last week of class, only 43% (296 responding) responded that this was still at the top of their interests. Even more interesting was the increased interest in graduate school (8% in September vs 17% in November). These data indicate that exposure to a wide variety of opportunities and options beyond vet school may encourage students to consider alternative career paths (still within Animal Science) earlier, which may allow them to investigate internships and other experiences in new areas.

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2016

Placement:

Graduates of the Animal Science department continue to be in high demand. Students completing their degrees in Fall 2014-Spring 2015 and responding to the survey published in the 2015 CALS Career Services report totaled 153. According to the survey, 149 of the 153 graduates responding (97.39%) 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: Land O' Lakes, Elanco Animal Health, Ralco Animal Nutrition, Alltech, Ecolab, Denali Stud, Perdue Foods, Iowa Premium Beef, and Sinclair Research. Graduate and professional school continues to be a popular option for many graduates (n = 44).

First Destination Salary of 2014-2015 Animal and Dairy Science Graduates

Animal and Dairy Sciences

Job Title	Average Salary	Low Salary	High Salary	#
AI Technician/Breeding	\$39,700	36,000	43,000	8
Animal Health	42,195	22,256	58,000	9
Companion Animal	18,093	16,500	18,928	3
Education/Extension	35,260	28,600	38,000	4
Equine	27,988	19,000	50,000	23
Farming Operation	38,511	20,000	76,500	11
Feed/Nutrition	41,925	33,000	53,000	12
Food Industry	47,961	25,000	63,500	31
Herdsmen	37,199	12,480	61,500	24
Poultry Industry	43,046	38,000	50,000	12
Research Technician	29,166	15,000	53,000	25
Sales Representative	43,330	13,000	85,000	33
Service Work	25,133	20,800	31,200	6
Swine Industry	37,966	28,500	48,000	15
Vet Technician	23,246	15,000	30,000	7
Zookeeper	19,360	18,720	20,000	2
Other	35,867	18,720	58,000	46
Major Total	\$37,232	13,000	85,000	271
Further Education				407

*Source: ISU CALS Career Center Annual Report/2015

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 an international travel courses to France/Italy, with international travel courses to England/Scotland, Japan/China, Brazil and New Zealand planned for 2016. Several students also participate in study abroad trips led by faculty outside of Animal Science (Agronomy, Ag Business, etc.). It is apparent that there is an increased

demand to provide these experiences, and that they are considered valuable by employers.

New Faculty:

Dr. Jessica Juarez and Mr. Greg Krahn were hired as lecturers in August, 2015. Dr. Juarez received her B.S. and M.S. in Animal Science from Iowa State University as well as her DVM before practicing in a primarily dairy practice in Wisconsin for a year. Dr. Juarez will be handling the Anatomy and Physiology labs, which have had to be increased to accommodate more students.

Greg Krahn is a native of Wisconsin and received his B.S. from Western Illinois University before coming to ISU on a graduate teaching assistantship and then managing the Swine Teaching Farm for the department while working on his M.S. with Dr. Tom Baas. Mr. Krahn earned his M.S. in August of 2015 and is currently working on his Ph.D. with Dr. Tom Baas while teaching the Livestock Handling, Safety and Welfare course, ANS 210: Career Preparation in Animal Science, and ANS 411: Issues in Animal Science. Both lecturers are also advising undergraduate students.

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.