

Update on Graduate Programs in Animal Science

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Graduate education in the Department of Animal Science at Iowa State University has a long-standing reputation for excellence and continues to be one of the premier graduate programs in animal science in the U.S. A comprehensive review of the Department conducted by the USDA-CREES in 2003 concluded that graduate programs and instruction were of high quality. The review team expressed strong support for the interdepartmental programs that have been developed and strongly endorsed the interdepartmental Nutritional Sciences program that is currently being developed.

All of the five majors offering graduate degrees (Animal Breeding and Genetics, Animal Nutrition, Animal Physiology, Animal Science, Meat Science) have been in high demand and the number of graduate students has reflected the success of these programs. Currently, there are

28 graduate students in Animal Breeding and Genetics, 27 in Animal Nutrition, 13 in Animal Physiology, 9 in Animal Science and 30 in Meat Science. The total number of 107 graduate students is similar to yearly enrollments in the past five years.

The number of applicants for graduate admission continues to be relatively constant, as does the admission rate of 40-50%. The graduate student population is highly diverse with students from China, South Korea, India, Latin America, Taiwan, Africa and Europe currently enrolled. About 50% of the graduate student population is international.

Graduates continue to be in high demand when completing their degrees and the Department has realized virtually 100% placement of advanced degree graduates over the past several years. Job placements have been with industry, universities and government positions. A significant number of graduates have continued their education as post-doctoral fellows, in graduate programs at other institutions or in other professional programs.