In the animal science program, you’ll learn about the care and management of a wide variety of animals. You can focus on farm animals, zoo animals, horses, pets, or business within the animal industry. While in the animal science program your studies will include animal health, animal biology, nutrition, breeding and production, genetics, and business management.

CFANS offers many hands-on learning experiences for this major, which is important for anyone who wants to work with animals. You’ll get the chance to gain experience in small or large veterinary hospitals, livestock barns, and modern research labs, right on the St. Paul campus. The Animal Science department includes multiple award-winning faculty members and advisors.

The animal science major will prepare you for veterinary school, work as a manager and technical adviser for animal production systems, various careers in animal industries or biotechnology, or graduate study in animal-related specializations. Depending on your area of emphasis, you can select from the following areas of study: dairy, beef, sheep, swine, equine, companion animal, or poultry.

Students in the Animal Science major choose their emphasis from the following options:

- Companion Animals (Pets)
- Equine / Horses
- Industry and Business
- Production
Student Experiences

There are more than 900+ student groups that you can get involved in at the University of Minnesota. Specifically, our CFANS student groups are designed to help you gain real-world experience and meet fellow students who share your interests.

Some groups that are popular with students in this major include:

- Companion Animal Club
- Minnesota Equestrian
- Gopher Dairy Club
- Pre-Vet Club
- Block and Bridle
- Gopher Poultry Science Club

Study Abroad Options

More than 250 study abroad programs in 70 countries are available to University of Minnesota students. Study abroad can offer a global perspective on your studies in agriculture. Learn more about CFANS study abroad options.
You might also explore

Marine Biology Minor  
Agricultural Education  
Sustainable Systems Management  
Agricultural Communication and Marketing  
Agricultural and Food Business Management  
Biology  
Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

Associated Careers

Animal Care Technicians, Agricultural and Food Scientists, Aquaculturists, Dairy Farmers, Pet Trainers, Pig and Poultry Farmers, Ranchers, Researchers, Swine Specialists, Veterinarians, Zookeepers

Admission Information

Students who are interested in becoming veterinarians specializing in food-production animals and livestock can also apply to the VetFast Program: Veterinary Medicine for Food Animals.

The VetFAST program makes it possible to get an admissions decision by the U of M's College of Veterinary Medicine at the end of your first year in college, rather
than during your junior or senior year. This allows you to complete your pre-veterinary studies in three years instead of the typical four. Students in the VetFast program are also exempt from taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).