

Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Bachelor of Science Degree

Contact

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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (biology and chemistry or physics)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

The hands-on approach in the AVS program at the University of Maine generates practical experience for well-rounded graduates, and it has a high success rate for veterinary school admissions.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

Program Description

The animal and veterinary sciences (AVS) curriculum provides a broad background in science and mathematics with a thorough understanding of the breeding, diseases, genetics, management, nutrition and physiology of large animals, laboratory and companion animals. This department also administers a pre-veterinary program to meet the requirements for admission to veterinary college, medical school or graduate schools at other land-grant universities. Animal and veterinary sciences courses also serve as elective opportunities for students in other agricultural and life sciences and in other colleges.

The AVS undergraduate degree combines an experienced group of animal science and veterinary faculty with on-campus herds of horses and dairy cows to provide a hands-on, experiential learning experience. Students are challenged by a rigorous applied science curriculum, using that knowledge to solve real-world problems associated with animal management.

Specialized Information

The J. Franklin Witter Center, located a mile from campus, is a working farm that is part of the University's Agricultural Experiment Station system. Cattle and horses housed on the farm are used in a variety of classes, clubs and directed studies to emphasize the principles learned in lecture-based animal and veterinary science courses. Upper-level AVS courses at the Witter Center stress student-led herd management under the guidance of faculty and professional staff.

All AVS students are required to complete a field experience related to their potential career interest. Students choose a mentor with input and guidance from AVS faculty advisors, then spend at least 320 hours learning about the potential career choice.

All undergraduates are required to complete a capstone research project, for which a student is paired with an AVS faculty member for an academic year. The capstone experience offers a wide choice of potential projects to meet an individual student's specific professional interests. Students are expected to research the area of study, write a formal research proposal, conduct the project and then formally present the results in both a written and an oral presentation.

The department also offers an equine science minor.

Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

Students are encouraged to join the Animal Science Club, Pre-Veterinary Club, Dressage Club and Equestrian Team.

Representative Courses

AVS 145 Animal Science
AVS 200 Topics in Animal Science
AVS 346 Dairy Cattle Technology
AVS 347 Dairy Cattle Technology Laboratory
AVS 349 Livestock Management
AVS 351 Animal Science Techniques
AVS 401 Senior Paper
AVS 402 Senior Paper II
AVS 437 Animal Diseases

AVS 455 Animal Nutrition
AVS 461 Animal Breeding
AVS 466 Feeding Dairy Cattle
AVS 480 Physiology of Reproduction
AVS 371 Dairy Management II
AVS 396 Animal Experience
AVS 397 Equine Internship
AVS 203 Equine Management
AVS 249 Laboratory Animal Technology

Career and Graduate Opportunities

In recent years, 20 percent to 25 percent of our graduating class has been admitted to veterinary college. With the proper use of options, students can prepare for admission to graduate school, to teach sciences in secondary school, to pursue technical sales and service work in animal agriculture, to become laboratory animal technicians, or to develop such animal production enterprises as dairy or livestock farms or equine stables. Superior students should consider continuing their studies at the graduate level. Recent graduates from the program can be found in the food processing industry, Cooperative Extension, feed and drug sales, agribusiness loan organizations, agricultural consulting companies, dairy production units, humane care associations, laboratory animal care facilities, commercial biological laboratories, equine boarding and training stables, as dog groomers and trainers, and as practicing veterinarians or physicians.

UMaine Graduate Programs

Master of Science in Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Master of Professional Studies in Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in Food and Nutrition Sciences
Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

