Degree Information

The Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University leads the way in animal agriculture. Research, teaching and Extension programs employ interdisciplinary approaches to enhance the benefits of livestock to society while ensuring the welfare of animals. The Department has achieved national and international prominence as the largest and most complex department of animal science in the nation. Advanced degrees are available in:

- Animal breeding
- Animal science
- Physiology of reproduction
- Master of Equine Industry Management

Interdisciplinary degree programs:
- Biotechnology
- Genetics

Admission

A formal application is required of all persons seeking admission or readmission as graduate students in the Department of Animal Science. The basic requirement for admission to graduate studies at Texas A&M University is a scholastic record which, over at least the last two years of full-time academic study in a degree program, gives evidence of the applicant’s ability to do successful graduate-level work. Specific requirements for admission into the Animal Science graduate program include a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the most recently earned degree, a score of at least 300 (combined Verbal and Quantitative scores) on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and three letters of recommendation.
Placement and Jobs
Advanced study in animal science offers preparation for a future in teaching, research, Extension, livestock and dairy production, and in industries involving food technology, livestock products and livestock management.

Distinguished Faculty
The 50 members of the graduate faculty in the Department provide expertise that encompasses a continuum from fundamental to targeted research across the disciplines represented in Animal Science. Faculty in the Department are nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in teaching, research and Extension education. Three faculty hold endowed chairs in Animal Science and one holds a Beef Cattle Professorship. Four faculty have been designated as Regents Fellows and one as a Regents Professor by the Texas A&M University System. The Department also includes six AgriLife Research Faculty Fellows. Dr. Fuller Bazer, Dr. Guoyao Wu, and Dr. Jeff Savell hold the title of University Distinguished Professor of Animal Science which denotes a faculty member who is recognized by peers throughout the world as being among the top 5 percent in their field.

Extensive Facilities
The Robert Justus Kleberg, Jr. Animal and Food Science Center provides 39 laboratories for research and graduate training. Instrumentation is available for studies in nutrition, physiology, meat science, animal breeding and genetics, and animal behavior at the molecular, genomic, cellular and organismal levels. The Kleberg Center houses a vivarium for laboratory animal research. The Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center is equipped to harvest and process livestock for an array of research objectives. The O.D. Butler, Jr. Animal Science Complex includes the Beef Center, Sheep and Goat Center, Nutrition and Physiology Center and the Thomsen Center for Animal Studies in animal behavior and welfare. The Beef Cattle Systems Research Unit and the Physiology Field Lab are also located near campus. Facilities for equine research include the Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM ’56 Equine Complex and the N.W. “Dick” Freeman Arena. In addition to the campus-based livestock, sheep and goat flocks and beef cattle herds are maintained at several AgriLife Centers located around the state, including the McGregor Research Center, for research and graduate training.

Mentoring
Graduate degree programs are designed to facilitate student success through effective academic and career counseling. A major advisor is identified for each student upon admission. An orientation session for new graduate students is designed to inform the student of university and departmental policies regarding use of animals in research and teaching, laboratory safety, and risk management. The major advisor coordinates the formation of the graduate advisory committee and the development of the academic degree plan with the student. Students are encouraged to participate in departmental seminars, and scientific conferences and societies, and the Animal Science Graduate Student Association.

Financial Support
Qualified students may be offered a graduate teaching or research assistantship depending of the professor’s availability of funds. Diversity, Merit and Regents Fellowships for outstanding applicants may also be available on a competitive basis. Students on assistantships may be eligible for partial or full tuition payment.

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