POULTRY AND AVIAN SCIENCE, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Poultry and Avian Science minor is designed for students who wish to supplement their academic major with studies focused on the biology and management of avian species, with an emphasis on domestic fowl. In recognition of the diverse career opportunities in the modern poultry and game bird industries, the minor is designed to also accommodate students with primary interests in agribusiness management, food science, and wildlife science. Students are required to complete a minimum of 18 credits (9 credits at the 400 level). ANSC 211, ANSC 311, and ANSC 425/VBSC 425 provide a foundation of knowledge pertaining to both avian sciences and the commercial poultry industry, while additional courses selected by the student will allow for further specialization in the foundation animal science disciplines, agribusiness management, food science, and wildlife and fisheries science. In addition, credits from poultry or avian internship experiences and/or independent study projects may also be applied towards meeting the requirements of the minor.

The University's Poultry Education and Research Center is used extensively for supplementing classroom work with hands-on laboratories. The flexibility of the minor permits program planning commensurate with an individual's interests and professional goals, and should enhance the student's ability to compete for related positions in industry, government, or academia (graduate or professional school).

What is Poultry and Avian Science?

Poultry and Avian Science encompasses avian biology, management, and health. Domestic fowl, or poultry, are birds that are kept primarily for meat and eggs. The history of domestication of chickens and ducks dates back thousands of years to the Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, while turkeys served as food for Indians in North America as early as 1000 A.D. Chicken has become the world’s preferred meat, and this has occurred because of tremendous scientific advances in breeding (genetics), physiology, nutrition, and management (husbandry). Besides food, poultry can provide fiber (e.g., down and feathers). Today’s modern poultry industry is science-based, technologically advanced, efficient, and environmentally conscious. Animal health and well-being are integral components of overall management strategies. In addition to poultry, opportunities to learn about other avian species through course work and research are possible.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are passionate about birds and want to learn about avian biology, management, and health.
- You like hands-on experiences in both caring for animals and/or conducting independent research projects.
- You want to undertake industry internships.
- You are interested in intercollegiate poultry judging.
- You seek a career in a dynamic growing industry that feeds the world.
- You want to pursue post-baccalaureate graduate (research) or professional degrees in avian biology or avian medicine.