

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

About the College

160 Years of Leadership

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is one of the world's leading institutions of agriculture, with more than 160 years of leadership in science, education and extension. The college educates future leaders, conducts mission-oriented research and shares new knowledge for the betterment of Iowa and the world.

World Ranking

The college is one of eight at Iowa State University, which is one of the most influential land grant universities in the nation. Iowa State ranks among the best in the world for agricultural programs. The college **ranked in the top 2% worldwide** among 422 institutions in 2023, and has ranked in the top 10 list five of the past 14 years. (*QS World University Rankings, agricultural and forestry programs*).



Education

The college prepares leaders who will meet future challenges.

- 27 undergraduate majors and 35 graduate programs are offered.
- More than 3,700 students completed online courses during the 2022-23 academic year.
- Science With Practice allows **students to work with faculty mentors** who are international experts, while earning credits and a paycheck.
- More than **100 students** take the Start Something College of Agriculture and Life Sciences capstone course each year. At the end of the semester the students **present business plans to investors and entrepreneurs**.
- CALS students won the American Farm Bureau Federation's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2015, 2016 and 2019. Five additional business ventures developed by our students have been named national semifinalists in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2023.
- The college hosts the nation's largest career fair and employers compete for our graduates: placement has been **97 percent or higher for 25 consecutive years**.
- Approximately **\$4 million in scholarships** are offered to students annually through the college and its departments.
- Iowa State's agricultural and biosystems engineering degree programs **consistently rank amongst the top** nationwide (*U.S. News & World Report*).
- CALS leads the campus in four-year retention rates and has the second highest four-year graduation rate.

Faculty and Staff

The college has 294 tenure/tenure eligible faculty, 102 term faculty, 479 professional and scientific staff and 28 merit staff in 14 departments. Eight departments are co-administered by another college. Nine faculty members have received national honors from the USDA Food and Agricultural Sciences Excellence in Teaching Awards. The college has 36 named faculty positions.

Global Programs

The college is a national leader in student participation in study-abroad programs. Students are encouraged to integrate international dimensions and perspectives into their educational and career goals. For **more than 65 years, the Global Programs unit** has led international programs to countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The college's goal is to help students become global citizens with multicultural experiences.



Research and Economic Development and Agriculture Experiment Station

In accordance with Iowa State University's overarching mission, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is committed to advancing the understanding and application of agriculture, natural resources and life sciences. CALS actively contributes to global food security, safeguards the planet's resources and tackles social challenges through research initiatives.

CALS faculty and staff engage in both foundational and applied research, focusing on mission-oriented projects that address practical challenges while boosting Iowa's economy and quality of life.

As a land-grant university, CALS oversees the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station (AES). Over the past five years, AES scientists have leveraged capacity funding to successfully secure approximately **\$60 million in external funding** annually, expanding significantly the scope of research conducted and enabling faculty and staff researchers to be both strategic and responsive to emergent issues affecting Iowa, the nation and the world.

Extension and Outreach

Extension to Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) serves Iowans daily, **delivering science-based information** and education vital to farmers, businesses, communities and consumers. ANR also listens to understand needs, emerging issues and help plan for the future. ANR is the largest unit in ISU Extension and Outreach, involving 85 faculty and staff in 7 departments and 39 field specialists across Iowa.

Engaged Alumni

Alumni are strong supporters of the college and university. More than 25,000 of our 47,728 alumni live in Iowa. Sixty-two percent of our new graduates begin their careers in Iowa following graduation. Forty-two percent have donated to Iowa State University and 20% have donated to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. In the last fiscal year, alumni and friends gave more than **\$40 million to support** students, faculty and programs.