

# Fall 2024 Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) Report

Courtney Chin - 11/14/2024 1:28:26 PM -05:00

## Received

Date:

By:

Comment:

## Instructions

This is a form for SEBS Governing Council major representatives. The purpose of this form is to encourage student engagement with faculty/department representatives and to identify academic issues that may be addressed by the council.

1. Talk to students in your major, ask around if there are any current academic issues (ex: class conflicts within the major, issues with professors or department, lack of resources).
2. Look at Degree Navigator, write down the course requirements
3. Formulate a list of things you would like to know about the program (corporate connections with the university, current research projects, opportunities for students to get involved, recent changes to the program)
4. Email Undergraduate Program Director and Arrange Appointment
5. Fill out this form and submit by 11:59pm on November 17th, 2024.

n/a

## General Information

Your Name

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Your Email

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Represented Major

Animal Science

Date of Meeting with UPD

11/14/2024

Class Year

2028

UPD Name

Aparna Zama

UPD Email

zama@rutgers.edu

Major/Departmental Website Link (if applicable)

<https://animalsciences.rutgers.edu/>

## Major Information

Major Options -- What options are offered within the major? How do they differ?

Options offered within the animal science major include: Pre-Veterinary and Research, Lab Animal Science, Companion Animal Science, Equine Production. Pre-veterinary and research involves preparing students with necessary classes for veterinary school. Lab animal science studies the biology of animals for biomedical research. Companion animal science focuses on caring for animals and welfare, while equine production studies the caring/welfare for horses. Each curriculum option has different requirements to be fulfilled.

Total Number of Students within the Major (estimate if unknown from UPD)

There are 452 total students in the major. 65% of students are in the Pre-Veterinary and Research option, 10% of students are in the Lab Animal Science option, 15% of students are in the Companion Animal Science option, and 10% of students

are in the Equine Production option.

Goals within the Major -- What are expectations of students post-graduation?

Around half of the students within the major should either complete research or work in a faculty member's lab during their time at Rutgers. Additionally, students are expected to seek employment, veterinary school, or graduate school post-graduation. According to a Senior Exit Survey done in 2023 only 6.45% of seniors did not meet one of these three expectations.

List Upper-Level major courses -- What is the goal of each course?

In the Spring these Upper-Level major courses will be offered: • 300 Integrative Physiology - An intense course covering all body systems. • 310 Animal Welfare - A forum for discussion of current topics concerning animal scientists, veterinarians, and livestock producers. • 327 Animal Reproduction - The course focuses on the anatomical structures and physiological processes that control reproduction across species • 330 Animal Nutrition (online) - Designed to help students learn the questions that they will need to ask when they wish to feed any animal. • 341 Poultry Production & Mgmt - The course provides an in-depth study of the husbandry and management of poultry. • 390 Equine Nutrition (online) - Provides an in-depth understanding of the nutritional management and requirements of horses. • 391 Comparative Mammalian Anatomy - Understanding body systems, identifying species differences, and research. • 398 Advanced Equine Health & Mgt - Understand the importance of equine health and management • 406 Farm Productivity Analysis - Evaluating animal enterprises and making recommendations about aspects of animal management. • 430 Animal Microtech. & Tissue Culture - Learn skills to work in biological research labs using cell culture techniques. • 490 Pathophysiology - Understanding the main failures in physiological systems in mammalian organisms

## Student Issues

Are there concerns with classes within the major? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these concerns?

The biggest concern with classes within this major from a faculty stand point seems to be the use of Artificial Intelligence. Instructors will use AI to see what the AI generates as a response as students are using AI and inputting those same responses as answers to assignments. This leaves instructors with a problem that they're not sure what to do. The teaching facility doesn't want to fail students for AI, but at some point they have no choice and it becomes plagiarism. The only solution is that students use AI responsibly and know that AI can be used to organize thoughts or explain a topic. However, it cannot be used to complete the whole assignment as that becomes the point where the AI starts to learn instead of the student.

From the perspective of the UPD or other major faculty members, what can currently be improved upon in the major or department? Are there any suggestions for solutions to these issues?

Students are not regularly checking their emails or utilizing resources that are being given to them by faculty. This results in students wasting time with faculty as they try to learn what is already given to them. Students should check their emails regularly and use those resources in addition to the ones posted on social media and on the animal science website.

Are there any Visitor Events/Talks/Seminars/etc. going on within the major?

There are lots of seminars throughout this semester with different kinds of topics about endocrinology and animal biosciences. We currently have 4 more seminars left.

Suggestions for students in this major (ex: organizations to join, news to pay attention to)

Check out the newsletter and the resources given throughout our email.

Changes within the major for the upcoming year

Any changes within the major will be said through the newsletter that is given out once in October for Spring Registration and once in April for Fall Registration. However, the most notable changes within the major for this upcoming year are that Animal Genetics 328 will not be offered in Spring 2025, instead it will be offered in Fall 2025. If necessary take 01:447:380 as an alternative. Also in Summer 2025, the 1-credit 150 Intro to Animal Handling will be offered, the 2-credit practicums (201, 202, 203, 205, 207) will NOT be offered, and other Summer 2025 courses will be released in February 2025.

Any other suggestions, comments, concerns?

The Animal Science Major offers many events which are usually open to many other adjacent majors within SEBS, please feel free to attend these events!