

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster

The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster focuses on the essential elements of life, food, water, land, and air. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from farmer, rancher, and veterinarian to geologist, land conservationist, and florist.



Statewide Program of Study: Animal Science

The Animal Science program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with the science, research, and business of animals and other living organisms. This program of study includes applying biology and life science to real-world life processes of animals and wildlife, either in laboratories or in the field, which could include a veterinary office, a farm or ranch, or any outdoor area harboring animal life. Students will research and analyze the growth and destruction of species and research or diagnose diseases and injuries of animals.

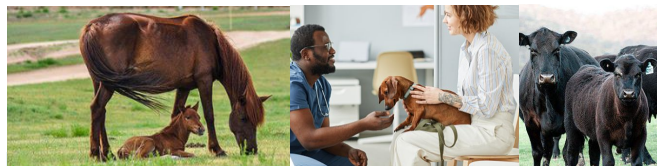
Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1 • Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Level 2 • Small Animal Management
• Equine Science
• Entrepreneurship I

Level 3 • Livestock Production

Level 4 • Advanced Animal Science



Example Postsecondary Opportunities

Apprenticeships

- Reproduction Technician

Associate Degrees

- Biological and Physical Sciences
- Entomology

Bachelor's Degrees

- Animal Science
- Zoology/Animal Biology

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Marine Sciences
- Biotechnology

Additional Stackable IBCs/License

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Technician

Example Aligned Occupations

Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers

Median Wage: \$29,906
Annual Openings: 1,348
10-Year Growth: 24%

Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

Median Wage: \$33,679
Annual Openings: 1,217
10-Year Growth: 24%

Veterinarian

Median Wage: \$103,160
Annual Openings: 347
10-Year Growth: 26%

Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

AP or IB

AP Biology
IB Biology SL
IB Biology HL

Dual Credit

Dual credit offerings will vary by local education agency.

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.

Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities

- Shadow an animal scientist in a biology lab to learn about applying science to understand animals and wildlife
- Intern in a veterinary clinic, caring for animals and wildlife being treated in the clinic

Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Participate in an FFA career, leadership, and speaking contest like an agriscience fair
- Attend an agricultural industry seminar

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Agricultural Biotechnology
- AgriLife Veterinary Assistant Certificate
- Certified Veterinary Assistant, Level I
- Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science Certification
- Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications Certification
- Equine Management and Evaluation Certification
- Feedyard Technician in Cattle Care and Handling



Successful completion of the Animal Science program of study will fulfill requirements for the Agriculture Job Ready endorsement.

Small Animal Science and Technology



Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024

For more information visit:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>

