College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Top 6 Things Prospective Students (and Their Families) Should Know About Your College:

1. CALS offers 17 majors and 19 minors in the areas of life sciences, agriculture and food systems, environmental protection, and the preservation of healthy, rural communities. Some students study to go on to veterinarian or medical school.

2. Students engage in educational opportunities across all majors, both in and outside of the classroom, including undergraduate research, internships, student-run programs such as the CREAM dairy and the Horse Co-op, community service-learning, teaching assistantships, and study abroad programs. For example, Last year students in the CDAE department alone spent 10,500 hours in internships in the community. CREAM students spent 15,760 hours operating their own dairy at the Miller Farm on Spear Street.

3. CALS is committed to outstanding advising by engaged, approachable faculty who connect students to opportunities for research and networking both within UVM and beyond.

4. Acceptance rate into Vet School for CALS students is a soaring 90% and above. Dietetic students match for the required 12-month program at 74%, compared to an average of 50% nationally.

5. Outstanding advisors committed to mentoring students in majors, including course planning, research and internship opportunities, study abroad, and career planning including pre-vet, pre-law, pre-dental and pre-med.

6. International faculty-led programs are offered in community development, animal science, nutrition, and plant biology and travel to study in Brazil, St. Lucia, Peru, Costa Rica, Italy, and Ecuador.

What Is New For The Coming Year?

- CALS has a new FOOD SYSTEMS undergraduate major as of Fall 2016! Students study all aspects of the food system including:
  - Agricultural systems
  - Environmental, social, and economic sustainability of food production with a changing climate
  - Food and health
  - Food security
  - Policy development at federal, state, and local levels
  - Understanding the complex dynamics of a global food systems
  - Students also concentrate in a specific discipline related to food such as Animal Science, Ecological Agriculture, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, Nutrition and Food Sciences, Plant Biology, Soil Science, or Sustainable
The University of Vermont is the only land grant higher education institution in the United States to offer a complete range of Food Systems study, from undergraduate through master's and PhD levels.

**Vermont is a Working Laboratory and Hub for Food Systems**

Since 2009, the Vermont food system has grown by 5,300 new jobs and an increase in $10 billion in annual sales. There is no better place to study food systems, and have direct access to farmers, producers, processor and policy leaders.

A new food systems paid internship was launched summer 2016 with students working with farmers and food processors to brew beer, develop Gelato flavors, process meats, work on farm sustainability, and work on value added food production.

**Experiential Learning Opportunities:**

CALS students earn real-life, hands-on experience through student research opportunities, internships, service-learning courses and study abroad programs. Just a few highlights:

- Our Cooperative in Real Agriculture Management (CREAM) program gives animal science students and other majors experience managing and operating a 50-cow dairy herd business.
- Many of our students work in faculty labs conducting research utilizing latest techniques in Biochemistry, Biological Science, Genetics, Microbiology and Cell and Molecular Biology.
- Students in the Nutrition and Food Sciences program receive credits for participating in community placements such as in a food industry business, clinical environment such as the University of Vermont Health Network, or in community non-profits and government agencies such as the Vermont Department of Health.
- **EQUUS** is a 4 credit course in which students perform the horse barn duties, keep records, and help make financial and management decisions associated with a horse boarding facility.
- Sustainable Farm Practicum - summer course in sustainable, diversified vegetable production held at the UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center.
- Students in the Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences complete internships in a vast number of geographic locations to understand the environment within the context of agriculture.
What Makes Your Program Unique Compared To Peer Institutions?
- CALS is a small college within a large university. The CALS faculty and students are collegial, diversified, collaborative, and engaged. The hands-on learning outside of the classroom is truly what sets CALS apart and far exceeds other colleges.
- We have extensive facilities, including a dairy farm, horse co-op, horticultural center, greenhouses, maple research center, and the Morgan Horse breeding center, all providing students the opportunity to be engaged in all aspects of agriculture and life sciences.

What is your college doing to further the first year experience for new students?
- CALS has a year-long “Foundations” first year course taught by communication professors with upper class peer teaching assistants, which help students with the transition from high school to college and to successfully engage in a higher education community. In addition these two semester courses help student build a strong foundation in public speaking and information technology competencies key to success at UVM and beyond. Students meet in small groups, which help build relationships and further enhance their adjustment to campus life.
- First Year student advisors are faculty fully involved in the student’s academic program area as teachers in the classroom and as researchers in their major. In the first semester, students are required to meet at least twice with their advisors as part of the requirement of their Foundation class. Advisors and students partner to build a 4-year academic program with those courses and experiential opportunities that best support each student’s career goals.
- CALS REPS, students in the college who help the Dean’s Office to recruit and retain students, will connect with students interested in more peer support. They have a web site and also meet bi-monthly.
- The CALS student service staff wants to meet and learn about their first year students. In an effort to get students to come in and introduce themselves, the Dean’s Office offers a $10 gift card to all first year students who come in to Morrill 106 to meet us!

Our Graduates Have Gone On To...
- *Bryan (Plant Biology)* is the State Botanist for the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
- *Karen (Public Communication)* is the Social Media Manager at Annie’s, Inc. in San Francisco, CA.
- *Rebecca (Animal and Veterinary Sciences)* is currently pursuing a doctorate in veterinary medicine at Cornell University.
- *Lauren (Microbiology)* is pursuing a career in medicine at the UVM Medical Center.
- *Shane (Plant & Soil Science)* is an Environmental Technician for the State of Vermont Air Pollution Control Division.
• Lindsey (Animal and Veterinary Science) is the Senior Keeper at the San Diego Zoo.
• Emily (Microbiology and Molecular Genetics) started a non-profit in Guatemala to feed the hungry before starting dental school.
• Jessie (Nutrition and Food Sciences) is working at a Registered Dietitian at Brown University.
• Natalie (Public Communication) is the Digital Editor at USA Today.
• Chelsea (Community Entrepreneurship) is the Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, CA

-Others have gone on to:
• Veterinary College, medical and dental school, graduate school, and law school.
• Non-profit management, private industry, biotechnology, biomedical research, pharmaceutical companies, commercial food processing industry.
• Dairy and equine farms, related agricultural fields, horticulturalists, and small, diversified farms.
• Hospitals (as dieticians, weight management, communication).
• Government agencies (food safety, health department, USDA, US Department of Fish and Wildlife), municipal and regional planning, environmental consultant, conservation planning, and many more!