State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Animal Science

Animal Science includes a range of animal-focused career opportunities in veterinary clinics, farms, research labs and animal welfare agencies, for example.

What Students Learn & Do

Working directly with animals, students in Animal Science explore a variety of career options. Foundational principles of biology, anatomy, genetics and breeding are taught as students learn to care for livestock, horses, pets, and aquatic animals.

Students typically concentrate on either small animals such as cats, dogs, birds and fish; or on large animals such as cows, sheep, horses and pigs. Learning takes place in a variety of locations that may include veterinary offices, fisheries, or farms, depending on the school and program. Maintaining workplace health and safety while also protecting the welfare of the animals is an important component of the curriculum.

Animal Science students are required to meet the same high academic standards as peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. In addition, training in Animal Science reinforces biology, chemistry and mathematics concepts.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. In Animal Science, credentialing opportunities will depend on the focus of the school/program and the student's area of specialization. These include qualifications necessary to work with lab animals, companion animals, livestock/poultry, horses or aquatic (ocean) animals.

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training needed for entry-level employment in this in-demand career field. Here are some possible Animal Science career options.

High School Diploma

- Veterinary Assistant
- Dog Trainer
- Farm Worker
- Lab Animal Technician

Trade School or Associate Degree

- Veterinarian Technician
- Research Laboratory Technician
- Animal Health Inspector

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Farm Manager
- Zoologist
- Wildlife Biologist

Advanced Degree
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

- Veterinarian
- Animal Nutritionist
- Animal Behaviorist

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?
2. What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?

Learn about differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Federation for Children with Special Needs