

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

### About the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Vision.** To enrich the lives of people in Iowa, the nation and the world through excellence in education, scholarship, service and leadership in food, agricultural, environmental and social sciences.

**Mission.** To discover and share science-based knowledge for the development of socially beneficial, economically successful and environmentally sound systems for food and other renewable resources; to engage communities for enhancing the quality of life; and to prepare students to become future leaders in agriculture and society.

**History.** Iowa State's excellence in agriculture began with the establishment of the institution in 1858 as an agricultural college and model farm.

**Students.** U.S. News & World Report featured the College in its "America's Best Colleges 2006" edition. The College enrolled 2,539 undergraduate and 646 graduate students in the fall of 2006. The College and its departments annually award more than \$1 million in scholarships. The College is a national leader in student participation in study-abroad programs. Agriculture Career Day is the largest student job fair of its kind in the country. The College's placement rate is more than 98 percent. The College's alumni worldwide number about 34,000.

**Research.** The College administers more than \$85 million in annual research expenditures through the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station. Current priorities include biorenewables, genomics, environmental stewardship, human health and wellness, food safety and security, and producer competitiveness and profitability. The College's faculty are leading national efforts to map the genomes of crops and animals.

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David Acker is the associate dean of academic and global programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Acker has been involved in agricultural education since 1975. He is a professor in the agricultural education and studies department and currently holds the Raymond and Mary Baker Chair in Global Agriculture. He completed his graduate education at University of California - Davis and at Oregon State University.

Acker provides leadership for academic programs in the college, which include distance education, outcomes assessment, student services, student recruitment and retention, community college relations, scholarships, study-abroad programs and international partnerships.

Acker has been a Fulbright research fellow in Greece and is currently assisting the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on research on education for rural development. Since 2004, Acker has lectured in Austria, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

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## Departments and Majors

### 15 Departments

Agricultural Education & Studies  
Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering  
Agronomy  
Animal Science  
Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular  
Biology  
Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology  
Economics  
Entomology

Food Science & Human Nutrition  
Genetics, Development & Cell Biology  
Horticulture  
Natural Resource Ecology & Management  
Plant Pathology  
Sociology  
Statistics

### Majors

Agricultural Biochemistry  
Agricultural Business  
Agricultural Education  
Agricultural Studies  
Agricultural Systems Technology  
Agronomy  
Animal Ecology  
Animal Science  
Biology  
Dairy Science  
Dietetics  
Entomology  
Environmental Sciences  
Food Science  
Forestry  
Genetics

Horticulture  
Industrial Technology  
Microbiology  
Nutritional Science  
Public Service & Administration-Ag

Secondary Majors  
Environmental Studies  
International Agriculture  
Seed Science

Preprofessional Programs  
Premedicine  
Prelaw  
Preveterinary **Medicine**

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Name Change**

### **Why did the College change its name?**

Potential students are often unaware of the career opportunities available by enrolling in the College. Their perception often equates “agriculture” with farming. About 85 percent of the College’s graduates choose careers in areas other than production agriculture. A name change would more accurately represent programs in the College, which include agriculture, food sciences, environmental and social sciences, and dispel the perception of that “agriculture” only means production agriculture.

### **Is this a national trend in agricultural colleges?**

During the past 30 years, most agricultural colleges have changed their names to better reflect their programs, student career interests and research. In 1999, there were 16 “Colleges of Agriculture” at universities around the country. Before the college changed its name in 2007 there were eight left in the country.

### **What is “life sciences”?**

Life sciences are branches of science dealing with living organisms, their life processes and their relationships to each other and their environment. Under this broad definition, 10 of the College’s 15 departments work in life sciences.

### **Why add “life sciences” to the College name?**

Students enrolled in the College can choose to study in many areas of life sciences, including agricultural biochemistry, agronomy, animal ecology, animal science, biology, dairy science, entomology, environmental science and studies, forestry, genetics, horticulture, microbiology, seed science, premedicine and preveterinary medicine.

### **Does this mean the College is de-emphasizing traditional agriculture?**

Agriculture always will be prominent in the College’s name, reflecting a legacy that is unparalleled — nearly 150 years of research, education and extension that continues today to enhance food, feed, fiber, fuel and consumer products for the benefit of Iowa and the nation. The College will remain a strong resource for enhancing agriculture in Iowa. College officials have discussed the name change with leaders of Iowa’s agricultural organizations that represent farmers. They have been supportive, knowing that research and extension on agricultural priorities remain and that a name change could help recruit new students into agriculture and related fields that offer opportunities, especially in Iowa.

### **How long has the College been in existence?**

In 2008, the College will celebrate 150 years of agricultural education, science and extension and outreach. Today’s Iowa State University was founded as an agricultural college in 1858. The word “agriculture” was part of Iowa State’s official name for 101 years. In 1959, the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts became Iowa State University.

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The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences administrative offices and student services offices are located in Curtiss Hall on central campus.



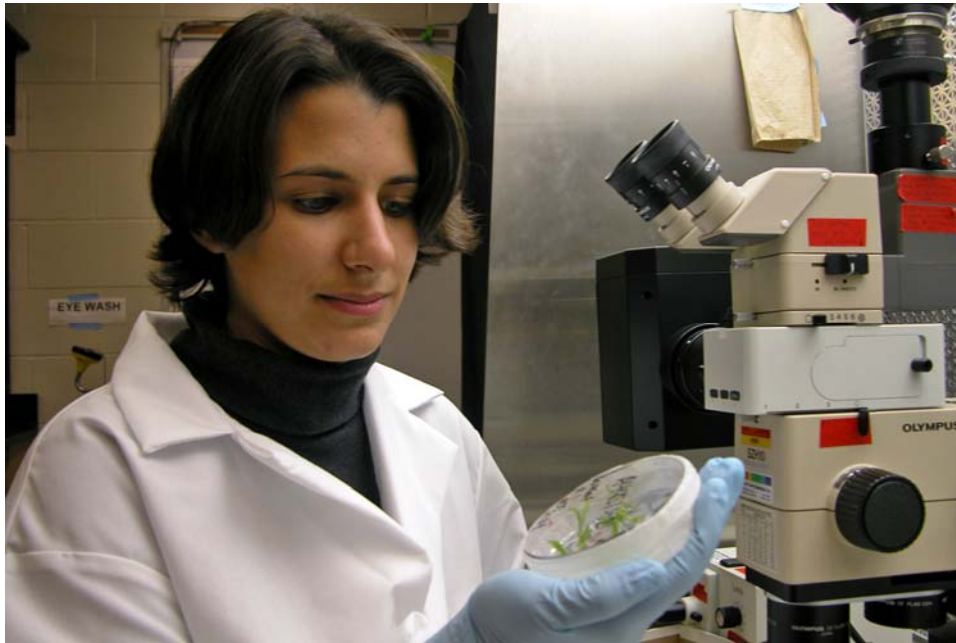
The Ag Career Day is the largest agricultural career fair in the nation. More than 150 employers attended the fair to recruit the college's students. More than 98 percent of the college's graduates have jobs or pursue an advanced degree within six months of graduation.



Every year the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council holds a welcome barbeque for new students. The council represents more than 35 organizations within the college.



The College Agriculture and Life Sciences has one of the largest study abroad programs in the nation. This student went to the Great Barrier Reef with the “Biomes of Australia” study abroad group.



Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have opportunities to study areas related to the life sciences. Ten of the College's 15 departments are related to the life sciences.



Students in this freshman leadership class have majors in animal science, biology, ag biochemistry, agronomy, genetics, ecology, horticulture, microbiology and pre-veterinary medicine. The class met regularly with Wendy Wintersteen, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and David Acker, associate dean of academic and global programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



## **News Release Quotes:**

### **Wendy Wintersteen, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.**

“Iowa State University has a 150-year tradition of excellence in agriculture. The new name for the college is the right direction to take as we enter a bold new chapter for the many areas touched by agriculture and the life sciences in Iowa.”

“Iowa State is one of the world’s premier research institutions for agricultural sciences. The new name will help position the college as we aggressively seek new opportunities in agriculture and life-science areas and collaborate with partners across the university, the state and beyond.”

“The new name more accurately describes the modern emphasis of the college and will help us communicate our contemporary programs and directions.”

### **Dan Frieberg of Cumming, chair of the college’s advisory council.**

“Iowa State University and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in particular, is in a high stakes battle for the best and brightest. We can’t afford to lose students from urban areas or any other background just because their perception of agriculture is dated or inappropriate. For many, the addition of life sciences may prove more fitting to the kind of future they see for themselves.”

“Agriculture is very technical, very scientific and very much about biology. Plant and animal genomics, for example, will be just as revolutionary for agriculture as human genomics will be for human medicine. Life sciences is very much an appropriate expansion of what modern and future agriculture is and will be.”

### **David Acker, associate dean of academic and global programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.**

“The new name will help us to better convey the breadth of programs we offer. We want to encourage prospective students to explore the wide variety of majors the college offers, the life-improving science behind them and the great career opportunities they represent. Our placement rate of more than 98 percent is something we’re very proud of.”