Wildlife, B.S.

Cal Poly Humboldt’s nationally recognized Wildlife program provides a rigorous curriculum that includes field experience in nearby natural habitats. Our goal is to instill a sense of responsibility, appreciation, and expertise, giving students a deeper understanding of managing and conserving wildlife and ecosystems.

Experience Your Learning

The North Coast provides a unique learning lab for students, connecting their education to practical experiences that can’t be found elsewhere.

Located in Northern California, Cal Poly Humboldt is near the Pacific Ocean and surrounded by ancient redwoods. Nearly five million acres of national forest, parks, and public wilderness lands provide opportunities to study wildlife, ecology, and management.

The Humboldt Bay and coastal habitats attract a wealth of the Pacific Flyway’s migratory shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. At the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary alone, there are more than 270 species of birds throughout the year. Redwood National and State Parks and Six Rivers National Forest are home to black bears, river otters, Roosevelt elk, bobcats, and mountain lions.

The Wildlife Museum in the Wildlife & Fisheries Building houses 16,000 specimens, including more than 9,300 avian specimens, 3,100 mammal skins and skeletal material, and 3,500 bird egg sets and nests.

Did you know?

- During your first year, you will explore the relationships between science, traditional ecological knowledge, the environment, and Native American communities all through the lens of California’s second largest river, the Klamath.
- Wildlife students have a long history of winning the Quiz Bowl, The Wildlife Society’s annual national competition that pits undergrads from around the country against each other.
Academics & Options

Wildlife, B.S.

The Bachelor of Science in Wildlife focuses on ecology, conservation, and management. That means you'll study the distribution, abundance, conservation, and management of species, with an emphasis on mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

With access to nearly five million acres of forests, parks, and public wilderness lands, the opportunities to study wildlife, ecology, and management are endless.

Our graduates are well-trained and in high demand—more than 80% are employed after graduation.

Whether you're in the classroom, the lab, or in the field, you'll work closely with faculty who are committed to your success.

Careers

Wildlife students graduate with the knowledge and field research skills to pursue several meaningful careers. Many go on to work as wildlife biologists for state and federal natural resource agencies. Others join conservation organizations, private businesses such as ecological consulting firms and timber companies, and zoos and wildlife rehabilitation centers.

- Wildlife Biologist
- Fish & Game Warden
- Zoologist
- Fisheries Biologist/Technician
- Customs Inspector
- Wildlife/Environmental Consultant
- Conservation Officer
- Park Ranger/Park Tech.
- Naturalist
- Wetlands Restoration Specialist

"Humboldt provided many workshops that are applicable to becoming a researcher. Through one of the workshops, I made a contact at the local bird observatory, Humboldt Bay Bird Observatory. I gained a solid foundation in natural sciences and the technical skills to work as an independent biological contractor, which ultimately turned into the MS position I am occupying now."

Arthur Sanchez Jr. ('16, Wildlife), Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Delaware

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