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Zoology, B.S.

Cal Poly Humboldt is an incredible place to study zoology. Our faculty are dedicated to teaching excellence and hands-on learning, and they lead courses that utilize specialized equipment, impressive natural collections, laboratory facilities, and the ecologically diverse field sites of our region. Extensive opportunities for research prepare our students for a wide range of careers in zoology. Come be inspired!

Experience Your Learning

Surrounded by a wide range of habitats, from coastal tide pools to mountain wilderness and from rivers to the ocean, Humboldt is in the perfect environment for field research.

You can study invertebrates in the tidepools, insects in the streams, flying squirrels and amphibians in the redwood forests, and whales in nearshore waters.

Learn about marine animals and study them at our Telonicher Marine Lab or aboard the University's research vessel, the Coral Sea, and gain scientific diving skills through a dedicated Scientific Diving Minor.

The Humboldt Vertebrate Museum, which houses more than 15,000 mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile specimens, is used for teaching multiple undergraduate courses and for undergraduate research.

As a Zoology undergraduate, you can expect to conduct independent hands-on research in upper division classes such as Intertidal Ecology, Herpetology, Comparative Animal Behaviour and Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy.

Motivated undergraduates have the opportunity to publish papers and attend national scientific conferences to present their research.



Did you know?

- Zoology is one of the Biology Department's most popular majors; it is the only Zoology major in the CSU system, and one of only two in California.
- Humboldt has a low student-to-faculty ratio, meaning you get to know your professors and fellow students closely.



Academics & Options

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The Zoology curriculum offers a strong foundation in the study of zoology including the study of the evolution, physiology, ecology and conservation of animals. In addition, our program also offers the flexibility for each student to tailor their upper division classes to help them meet their academic and career goals. Humboldt's robust taxonomy courses (Mammalogy, Ornithology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Invertebrate Zoology, Entomology, Advanced Mammalogy and Marine Mammalogy) are offered more frequently and go into more depth than those at most universities.

Minor

- Zoology Minor



Careers

Favorable opportunities can be expected for biological scientists with advanced degrees and for bachelor's candidates with outstanding educational and experiential backgrounds. Employment in the life sciences is expected to grow due to recent advances in genetic research, advances in biological technology, and efforts to conserve the environment.

- Zookeepers
- Veterinarians
- Museum Curators
- Federal and State Agency Biologists
- Scientific Illustrators
- Naturalists
- Biological Consultants
- National or State Park Interpreters
- Science Educators
- Scientific Writers



Humboldt's Biology program provided an unparalleled hands-on opportunity to explore and study the animals and ecosystems that were being discussed in our lectures. Having access to the forest and the ocean provided a learning opportunity unlike any other university in California."

Mark Murray ('13, Biological Sciences),
Senior Saltwater Aquarist at the Loveland Living
Planet Aquarium